

THE INDEPENDENT



Grey's elegy: One Man, favourite for today's running of the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park, on the gallops at Greystoke, Cumbria; Sport, page 18 Photograph: Brian Harris

Shoppers to pay the price in plans for powerful food-standards agency

Food prices seem set to rise to fund a new agency to be established under government plans to clean up the food industry. Food producers will have to fund some of the agency's costs, with a bill of up to £200m. Our Legal Affairs

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Correspondent has the details.

Ministers plan to charge manufacturers for food licences to belp pay for the Food Standards Agency and and the implementation of tougher regulations, according to the White Paper establishing the body, a copy of which has been seen by The Independent.

The bill to the food industry could be £200m, which will raise fears that prices could have to rise. It will also raise concern that the industry will expect trade-offs for funding the scheme. The leaked White Paper, due to be published in No-

month, also proposes a new advisory committee on animal feed. It is intended to meet concern over the use of genetically altered feed such as maize given to animals and its affects on human health.

The document, marked "final draft", contains wide powers for the agency, including a key role in identifying and recommending balanced and nutritious diets for the general public. Overall, the proposals will create one of the most powerful food watchdogs in Europe. The White Paper is thought to have been delayed after intervention by the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, apparently echoing fears by the food industry that emphasis on nutrition would deflect the agency from its other

The "final draft" says the agency, to be created by 1999. should play a "key role" in developing autrition policy. In particular, it should help provide the definition of a "healthy diet", and propose laws on nu-

vember but delayed to next tritional aspects of food, including "labelling and claims, dietary supplements sold as food. fortified foods and functional foods". Critics are watching to see if the proposals are watered down. The Health Department has lobbied hard to keep con-

But it is clear the food industry will be dismayed by the fessor Philip James in his 8 May

licensing with charges", it says. The White Paper makes big claims for the FSA, which will be based in Whitehall and divided into a commission and an trol over nutrition policy. executive arm called the agency,

plan to charge them for food

EXCLUSIVE BY MICHAEL STREETER

White Paper's objectives. In a key passage, the document says the Government believes the food industry should bear the bulk of the costs of improving food safety and standards. The food industry as a whole will benefit from the improved public confidence in

licences to fund many of the Prime Minister says the plans will "transform" the way foodstandard issues are handled. and promises to do away with the fold climate of secreey and suspicion".

The best way of achieving this

is a "comprehensive system of

modelled on proposals by Pro-

report. In his draft preface, the

responsible to the Department

under "guiding principles" including protecting public health in food and the need for

unbiased assessments. A controversial guideline is the requirement that the agency's actions on food health are "proportionate" to the risk and take into account the likely cost to industry and consumers. The Consumers Association believes such "political" judgements should be left just to ministers.

The crucial part of the proposals is the separation of food production issues, which will be retained by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF), and food consumer protection, which will pass to the agency. The two were seen as conflicting interests, a factor exposed in recent food crises such as the salmonella eggs scare and BSE.

The agency, whose annual expenditure will be more than A key part of the paper al- Cloum, will take over the role lows the agency, which will be of advising ministers on policy and the need for new laws in of Health, to publish not just its areas such as food safety, food food safety and standards that decisions but evidence on why standards and public informa-

the FSA is likely to bring", they are made. It will operate tion and education on food-related matters.

> A Health Department source said there have been battles in MAFF over which powers it will retain. The agency will be given the power to intervene legally - under existing or new powers in the 1990 Food Safety Act - in farming practices where these affect food safety. This will ensure it can operate across the whole food chain, from "plough to plate", says the White Paper.

Critics will doubt whether the agency will be given the resources and have the motivation to intervene effectively in what will remain MAFF's main area of responsibility. The agency, which will have the power and funds to commission research, will also have a "major strategic role" in developing a national strategy on the control of animal pathogens - which can cause disease in humans in the food chain.

The Consumers Association said it broadly backed plans for the FSA, but was concerned about industry funding it.

A good year...

The Independent's top writers on the moments that made 1997: with Andrew Marr, Donald Macintyre, Suzanne Moore, Polly Toynbee David Aaronovitch, Robert Fisk PAGES 5-13



Just what you need for a Christmas break: Mediterranean sunshine.

Christmassy. Rain lashing down. Wind howling. Snow forecast. Then a friend hands you a glass of wine that shimmers in the firelight like sun on the warer at St Tropez. James Herrick Chardonnay may not sound Mediterranean but as you raise the glass there's a rush of citrus and spice like the Mistral in your face. Then follows a flavour-tour of the South of France wild thyme, vanilla, cloves, gooseberry,

There you are, feeling anything but

lemon, lime till you can feel the warmth on your back and the blue Mediterranean between your toes. Stay awhile.

Have another glass.

lames Herrick CHARDONNAY

James Herrick

CHARGON

THE PICK OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

TODAY'S NEWS

Queen breaks tradition with personal message

The Queen broke with the tradition of her Christmas broadcast with a relaxed and surprisingly personal message to the nation. She paid homage to Diana, Princess of Wales, and there was prolonged footage of the public grief which followed the Princess's death and the funeral. Quoting William Blake about how the "silken twine" of loy which can accompany woe, she also described the happiness surrounding her 50th wedding anniversary celebrations. Page 3

Woody Allen on honeymoon

Woody Allen is spending Christmas on honeymoon with his new bride in Paris. Yesterday he posed for pictures with Soon-Yi Previn, the adopted daughter of his former partner Mia Farrow. Although his liaision with Soon-Yi had come in for some strong criticism in the US, he has received a comparatively sympathetic reception in France. Page 4



Gales lash Britain

The country was hit by storms of up to 90 miles per hour yesterday. Three people were killed and tens of thousands had to endure Christmas Day without electricity, or heating. Weather forecast, page 2

> The Eye, page 12 Page 28 and The The Eye, page 10

Eye. page 9 Web address: http://www independent.co.uk

Cold comfort Britain as gales cut power

Tens of thousands of people endured a **Christmas without** electricity after galeforce winds lashed the country, bringing down power lines. As Kathy Marks reports, engineers battled against time to restore supplies before storms struck again.

For householders dependent on electricity, it was a truly miserable day. No heating, no lights, no television, and no way of cooking the Christmas turkey.

North Wales, north-west England and Ireland took the worst hattering from winds which gusted to 90mph, leaving a trail of devastation. Three people died in the storms, which swept in from the Atlantic late on Christmas Eve. ripping tiles from roofs and causing havoc on

The electricity companies called in all their emergency

homes remained blacked out vesterday afternoon. Scores of roads and railway lines around the country were blocked by fallen trees and chunks of masonry. As clean-up operations began in the North, high winds moved into southern and west-

During the overnight storms, police in Merseyside received thousands of emergency calls and one council on the Wirral peninsula, where falling trees caused two serious road accidents, declared a local emergency. in one accident, a 32-year-old

woman from Stoke-on-Trent, who was visiting friends in the Wirral, was killed when a tree crushed her ear. Another woman died and her passenger was injured in a collision with another vehicle in the Penny Lane area of Liverpool, in the Irish Republic, a man died and his brother was injured in County Kerry when a wall collapsed, trapping them under rubble.

Wirral, an ambulance carrying cable television.

staff, but more than 20,000 a kidney to hospital for a transplant was involved in a 10vehicle pile-up after a tree fell on to the carriageway. Four people were injured. Inspector Colin Davidson, of Mersevside Police, said it was "like the Wild West" in the area at the height of the storm.

> Hundreds of trees and lampposts were flattened across Wales. Lancashire. Cumbria. Derbyshire and County Durham. The old Severn bridge at Avonmouth was closed, as was the QEII bridge near Dartford. which links Kent and Essex. Part of the A66 was shut after two lorries were overturned by

In Nottinghamshire, 30 families were moved from their homes after a boilerhouse chimney began leaning in 70mph gusts. In Cardiff. a man died after climbing on to a bridge and falling into the River Taff. Some 120,000 homes were

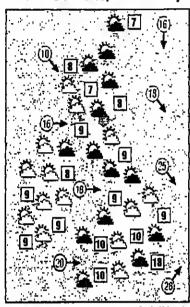
blacked out in the Irish Republic, where residents also On the M53 motorway in the had to contend with the loss of



Winter fuel: Five-year-old Gemma Hurrel clings to a hot water bottle during Christmas morning service at St John the Baptist church in Hoxton,east London, where churchgoers are being provided with the winter warmers until a new central heating system is installed Photograph: Rui Xavier

WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



General summary and outlook England and Wales will have a colder bul brighter day with rain soon clearing the east to leave sunny spells and showers. The worst of the showers will be in the north and west with the best of the sunny periods in the south and east during the atternoon. Northern (reland and western Scotland will be chilly and breezy with sunny intervals and sudden heavy showers, which will turn wintry on the hills. Eastern Scotland may start dull and damp but it should brighten up later with just the odd shower. Saturday will start off chilly everywhere and it will feel quite cool, However, strong winds will continue escape with a dry day and some reasonably long

to decrease. In the south and east some places will snells of sunshine but there will be further showers In the north and west, some of them guite heavy. On Sunday most areas will be dry for a while but more rain will start to move in from the south-west later as the wind increases. Monday will be wel with ...

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AA Roadwatch

London Al between Watlord Way, Mill Hill Circus and Fiverrays Comer Car-nageway reduced to two lanes for long lenn readworks. Until 31st May 1998 West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lothouse (M62). A contraflow and a 50mph speed limit are in place Until 13th

Somerset, M5 J22-23 Highbridge to Bridgewater Major roadworks due to bridge repairs, A 3 mile contrattow is in West Midlands. M6 J6 Birmingtam. tong-term roadworks, Northbound entry slip in the M6 North closed at Salford Circus Owersions in place

West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lotthouse (M62) Controllow and speed bmil are in place Until Jan 21 1998 Greater Manchester A56, Old Trafford. Roadworks Until 19th January 1998. London A3211 Blacktriars Underpass Contration Unit 15th April 1998 Bristol MS J18-19 Compation in operation across the Avenmouth Bridge with a 58mph speed limit. Regular rush-hour delays Until 1st January 1999 Kent M2.31 Rochester Readworks with

various lane closures. Until January 1999 Fant M2 35-7 Sittingbourne to Brenley Corner Lane closures Until March 1998

Dul and about with AA Roadand national traffic news. Source The Automo bile Autorismo Talls diamed at 200 per min orbigo into 100 per min self other times; mo VAL

Sun and moon

Icy ordeal for British officers

Three British Merchant Marine officers were safe after falling overboard into freezing waters in New York's Hudson River after a safety exercise went wrong. The men, with three Indonesian crew-members, were on a lifeboat on board the cruise ship Edinburgh Custle when it fell overboard. - Kim Sengupta

Women in financial control

The notion that men wear the financial trousers has been undermined by a new survey by Cornhill Life. Just 14 per cent of women. left decisions about savings schemes to their male partners, while 40 per cent said they made the decisions themselves without any consultation. However, the majority of women complained of in-- Kim Sengupta sufficient information aimed at them.

Road-rage victim seriously ill

A woman, 20, was in a critical condition in hospital with head in juries after an alleged road-rage attack in Pembroke on Christmas Eve. Police were questioning three men.

Chris Evans has a £100 lie-in

Chris Evans, the disc-jockey and new head of Virgin Radio, failed to turn up for a live interview on Sky News yesterday morning:... and lost a £100 bet. Evans recently bought a controlling interest: in the station from Richard Branson for £80m. - Kim Sengupta

CONTENTS

World news Moments that made the year Sales guide

Television and radio Crosswords

7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley ZITS

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by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



_15.43 to 8.31

NONSENSE. YOU SAY I'M CYNICAL BECAUSE I WON'T PRETEND, BUT WHAT IS CONTENTMENT COUNTERFEIT? DESIRE FOR THINKS TO BE BETTER DIS ATIS FACTION

CYNICAL ? ME ? WHAT

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The John Lewis Clearance. It's like a sale, only better.

FIRST DAY MONDAY AT PETER JONES Stoame Square JOHN LEWIS OXFORD STREET, BRENT CROSS, ABERDEEN, CHEADLE EDITISURGH HIGH DICCOMBE FIRST DAY TUESDAY AT JOHN LEWIS: BRISTOL KINGSTON MILTON KEYNES, PETERBOROUGH MELCON BAIMBRIDGE - Henry 1, Hr. BONDS - Horesch. CALEYS - Windsor, COLE BROTHERS - Shellield MEELAS - Reading JESSOP & SON - Multireglater

At John Lewis Department Stores, even during a clearance, it's business as usual. For instance our pricing policy, summed up by 'Never Knowingly Undersold',

means that if we find a local retailer offering the same goods at a lower price, we will reduce ours accordingly, even if

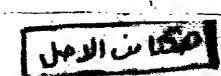
free across a wide area. And whatever you huy, you can return it if you are not completely satisfied. The John Lewis Pharance, It's better than a sale, Queen

per 2 year of grief and par happiness, she told pration yesterday to or Christmas Day gessee. Kathy Marks as the intensely argual tone of the postcast marked a mificant break with

Cubans ha Christmas

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Queen's message breaks tradition

For the Queen, it has been a year of grief and row of Diana's death." It was a great happiness, she told more relaxed Queen who spoke the nation yesterday in yesterday, an indication that she her Christmas Day has taken to heart the calls grief. message. Kathy Marks after the Princess's death for a says the intensely modern monarchy, more accessible to the people. personal tone of the The broadcast marked a debroadcast marked a parture in other ways too. Prosignificant break with

duced for the first time by ITN tradition. instead of the BBC, it was in documentary format, with the Queen's words intercut with Finally, it seems, the Queen is footage from the funeral, royin tame with the popular mood. If there was one thing her subal visits and the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh. jects wished to hear in the At nine minutes and 55 sec-Christmas broadcast, it was a onds, it was the longest royal display of emotion about Diana, Christmas message since

Princess of Wales. And there it George V began the tradition as, right at the start of her mesin 1932, and it was also the first to be on the Internet. Westminster Ahbey, she The Queen remarked on said, had been the setting this the flowers and condolences left year for both Diaga's funeral in tribute to Diana and said they and her own 50th wedding anhad been "a great comfort to all niversary celebration, two

those close to her". As she events, "one of them almost unspoke, scenes from the funeral tearably sad, and one, for were shown, including a shot of Frince Philip and me, tremen-Prince Harry, his face crumpled cously happy".

Quoting from William Blake in grief. The Queen came close to enbout the "silken twine" of joy dorsing devolution for Scothat often accompanies woe, she

land and Wales, while said: "This interweaving of joy expressing confidence that the and woe has been very much Kingdom remained united. It rought home to the and my was her first opportunity to ad- ty with each other".

family during the last months. dress the nation since she We all felt the shock and sor- appeared on television a week after the Princess's death in response to disquiet at the royal silence amid outpourings of

> Part of the broadcast was filmed at Windsor Castle, where the Queen showed restoration work on St George's Hall, ravaged by fire five years ago.

It finished on another personal note. "Christmas reaffirms that God is with us today," the Queen said. "But, as I have discovered myself afresh this year, he is always present in the kindness shown by our neighbours and in the love of our friends and family."

In his Christmas Day sermon at Canterbury Cathedral, the Archhishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, made a plea for a more caring society, but said it was only attainable if the worth of every individual was recognised. Dr Carey said God was "still with us". He went on: "Not absent from the poor, the broken-hearted, the refugee and the homeless. Not absent from the single mother, the person living on the breadline and the unemployed teenager."

He added that Christmas "asserts the importance of family life and living in communi-



of the Nativity, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem

Bargains galore as stores offload surplus stock

Pashions, shoes and china will be offered at up to 50 per cent discount tomorrow as stores struggle to offload huge quantitles of surplus stock built up hefore Christmas. Some retailers are describing the reductions sales to date.

Despite record amounts accessories and CDs, fashion and shoe retailers will be offering unprecedented bargains af- offered for £29. ter they suffered disappointing levels of pre-Christmas business.

Ron Woodman, marketing director of the Metro Centre in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, said: "In fashion, there has probably not been a bigger sale with this level of price cuts. It is fashion-driven sale."

The Centre for Economic Business Research estimates that up to £6.7bn could be the January sales, 9 per cent up since before Christmas. on last year.

Retailers were hit hard before tailed the appeal of winter clothes and footwear.

Chris Fear, marketing director of Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex, said: "We ex-

pect 50 per cent off many fashion items. People have been holding off and waiting until the sales to buy. The money is there, so this coming Saturday the advice is: get out there early."

An example of the bargains as the cheapest post-Christmas available in footwear is a pair of Russell & Bromley kneelength velvet boots which have spent on gifts such as perfume, been reduced from £225 to £95. A pair of shoes which normally sells there for £120 will be

Prices for household goods have also been sharply cut. St George curtains which before Christmas cost £119 at John Lewis will now be £69. Similarly. china pottery is on sale at less than 65 per cent of full price.

Retailers have complained of predominantly going to be a sluggish sales, and stores such as House of Fraser began their January discounts last weekend. Sales are have been under way nation-wide at Laura Ashley. spent in the non-food sector in Warehouse, Dolcis and Ravel

Out-of-town shopping centres have benefited at the Christmas by mild weather of expense of high streets. A around 9C, which severely cur-record 130,000 customers a day spent an average of £96 each at the Metro Centre, compared with £63 last year.

- Andrew Verity Sale guide, pages 14 and 15

Cubans have their first Christmas for 30 years

Christmas came to lavana yesterday for the irst time in decades. **Cubans** were given the lay off ahead of the Pope's forthcoming visit. Agencies report.

As church bells rang across Havana, more than 1,000 people crowded into the city's

Cardinal Jaime Ortega said hat Roman Catholics never ceased to attend Christmas Mass under Fidel Castro's Communist government. But this year, with Pope John Paul II arriving for a visit next month, Christmas Eve celebrations are extra special. In honour of the visit, Mr Castro declared Christmas Day - for this year - an official holiday.

The holiday season has tak-

en on a special meaning for Cubans. Christmas trees and other holiday items sold out weeks ago. Despite a severe economic crisis, families scraped together enough money to buy the pork roast, apple cider and other special foods for a traditional holiday meal.

We have always done something special for Christmas Eve. even if it was just fried eggs," said Yaneysi Rodriguez. 28, cathedral on Christmas Eve to who sold mandarin oranges give thanks for the first gov- measured out on a large rusty eroment-sanctioned Christmas scale: "But this year we are going to have a hig dinner with pork leg. Cuba became officially athe-

ist three years after the 1959 revolution that brought Castro to power and Christmas as an official holiday disappeared in 1969. Castro relented only because of the Pope's visit. In Rome, the Pope spoke of

the universal joy of the holiday. His Christmas wish: "Peace to humanity." The 71-year-old Pol-

ish Pontiff appeared tired as he read his address and later wished the world a Happy Christmas in 56 languages. He spoke of the plight of refugees, the homeless, immigrants and the unemployed, focusing on the plight of the poor in advanced nations.

In Bethlehem, workers picked up litter in Manger Square from thousands of pilgrims and Palestinians on Christmas Eve. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told worshippers at an Anglican service held in a courtyard near the Church of the Nativity that "there will be peace in the land". But there was also bitterness in the air. Suba Arafat, the President's wife, claimed Israel had intentionally blocked tourists from entering Bethlehem. "It is ... an attempt to stop the celebrations and to destroy the Palestinian dream," she said, "Every year we try to make the celebrations better but every year Israel tries to destroy our efforts."



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Woody weds Mia's adopted daughter

Three uncharacteristic things at five o'clock yesterday after- now be put under the media Christmas. He left Manhattan. keeping it secret any longer." He had paparazzi chasing him around some of Europe's bestchose to honour his latest long-standing romantic liai-

columnists of the New York tabloids may have poured scom and moral opprobrium on him five years ago when he first happy to be in Venice." Actustarted going out with Soon-Yi. the adoptive daughter of his then consort Mia Farrow. But they were uttering blessings at the very mention of his name this Christmas for providing ple had vanished and the press them with the one thing they cannot usually get at this time of year: a half-decent story.

Woody and Soon-Yi tied the knot in Venice in a ceremony so discreet that nobody realised it was happening until it was long over. There was no hig party, no designer clothing, and absolutely no sign of the bride's mother. It was the mayor of Venice. Massimo Cacciari, who let the cat Christmas Eve. "I married them

happened to Woody Allen this noon," he said. "There's no point spotlight for doing something

There followed a rather ridiculous chase along the known luxury hotels. And he canals and foothridges of Venice to track down the newlyweds. The television cameras son with a wedding ceremony. caught up with them, walking The news editors and arm in arm near their hotel, the Gritti Palace. "I have no comment to make," said a clearly bewildered, pale-faced Allen. "Tm ally, the 62-year-old director did not look happy at all. His new bride, 35 years his junior, man-

> A few hours later, the coucircus moved on to Paris where it was rumoured they had flown to spend Christmas Day. Sure enough, they had checked into the Ritz. It was pretty slim pickings for the press pack, though, who caught a brief glimpse of Woody disappearing under his hodyguard's armpit and little else.

aged a smile but said nothing.

It was paradoxical that a man accused of cradle-snatchout of the bag at lunchtime on ing when he first starting dating Soon-Yi in 1992 should

as respectable and conventional as getting married. Admittedly, this was a unusual step for him; although he spent several years living and working with Diane Keaton, and several more with Farrow, he did not marry either of them.

This was the biggest media event for Allen since his acrimonious split with Farrow and the ensuing legal tussies over custody of their children. He did not look like a man who had learnt to take it all in his stride. In recent years he has been spending more and more time in Europe, filming in Paris, Venice and Taormina in Sicily. He has a special fondness for Venice, partly hecause he has always been well received at the city's annual film festival. Last year, he even took star hilling in a jazz concert staged to raise money for the hurned out opera house. La Fenice. In the past he has only consented to play his clarinet on Monday nights at his favourite New York jazz club.



- Andrew Gumble Allen kissing Soon-Yi for the cameras in Paris yesterday

German charged in Israel over suicide bomb plot

A 26-year-old German convert to Islam was charged in Tel Aviv yesterday with planning to blow himself up in a crowded Israeli street. He would have been the first European suicide in a bombing campaign which has claimed 21 Israeli lives since July

Stefan Smirak, a Christian by hirth, is alleged to have joined the Hizbollah Shia militia during a visit to Lebanon this autumn Israel's Shin Bet internal security service was waiting for him when he landed at Ben-Gurion airport on 28 November.

According to a police spokesman. Hizbollah trained him to handle weapons and explosives, then sent him home to Germany to get a new passport with no Lebanese stamps. From there he flew to Israel with orders to film potential targets in Tel Aviv and Haifa. After that he was supposed to go to Turkey, where a Hizbollah agent would instruct him on how to prepare the explosive and where to detonate it. He was picked up before he could carry out his reconnaissance mission.

IMF throws lifeline to Seoul

The IMF moved to shore up South Korea's shattered markets by announcing swift aid disbursements of \$100n (£6.2bn). Seoul said it had agreed to new reforms with the IMF in return for the aid by next month to stabilise its floundering markets. IMF officials on Wednesday said the package should help to keep the country's economic crisis from developing into a "serious" recession. Some analysts have expressed fears of an imminent default on Korea's foreign debt, which the Finance Ministry estimated

Clinton pledges homeless \$1 bn

In a Christmas Eve announcement, President Bill Clinton has pledged to seek \$1.15bn in next year's hudget to help homeless people get off the streets. "As long as there are children waking up in America on Christmas morning without the comfort of a warm home, we have more work to do," the President said in a statement.

Most of the requested funding would be used for grants to local communities to provide job training for the homeless, child care, treatment for drug and alcohol abuse and mental health services with the aim of accomplishing more than just sheltering the poor. The rest would be for rental assistance

— AP, Washington

Kaunda is sent to jail

Kenneth Kaunda, the former president, five days after he returned to the country for the first time since an attemptei Aides said the frail 73-year

old "father of the nation", nov a vocal opposition leader, hal been taken to a notorious and overcrowded remand prison, Kamwala, in the capital Lusa ka after being served a police or der detaining him for 28 days

President Frederick Chiluba defeated Mr Kaunda in multiparty elections in 1991. He imposed a state of emer gency on 2 November, after:

foiled conp by junior arm officers who accused the gov ernment of corruption.

- Reuters, Lusoki

Actor Toshiro Mifune dies

Toshiro Mifune, a legend of Japanese cioema and star of such classics as The Seven Wednesday aged 77.

Mifune was an icon of Japanese film, with parts in more than 130 Japanese and English-language movies.

He was best known for rugged and stoic samurai warrior roles under the direction of Akira Kurosawa.



THE INDEPENDENT

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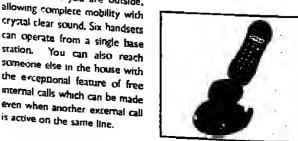
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THE INDEPENDENT MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

A nation at ease with itself? We're getting there

It has been a good year. Good for Britain and good for most of the world. News is mostly led by bad news. Looking back at The Independent during 1997, one finds the whole gamut of human folly and wickedness, in daily instalments: rapes, murders, callous hureaucracy, brutal little wars, child abuse, corruption.

But actually, away from the headlines, the underlying themes we reported and discussed are, when swallowed in retrospective gulps, cheering and positive ones.

Remember, first, that the vast bulk of what mattered in the past 12 months happened privately, in families and companies. We continued to become a richer, hetterinformed and more secure people. Fine theatre, excellent music, daring fashion and innovative art hubbled up all round the country. Our cities pullulated with energy and self-confidence. Britain became a more cosmopolitan, admired and zippier nation than before. Despite close calls and dark predictions, Northern Ireland continued mostly peaceful.

A cloud over the year, rather higger than a man's hand, has been global warming and the fears of the effects of climate change, Month after month of weird weather helped keep every thinking citizen at least mildly worried. Around the world, floods, earthquakes, storms and droughts seemed to be more frequent than before. At home, water shortages and changes to our flora and fauna were widely muttered about. At least, although it was a muddled compromise at hest, the Kyoto summit saw the beginnings of a world deal. But this is one story that is not going away.

Economically, around the globe, stock markets fell as well as rose. Japan has had a tough year and cannot look forward to 1998 with great bullishness. Korea is in really deep trouble. But overall, trade grew and scores of countries raised themselves another notch from Third-World poverty to First-World affluence.

There were still some brutes and maniacs in charge of individual nations, such as Iraq and Serbia; but less of the world was under hrutish or maniacal control in 1997 than in any previous year of world history. Algeria had a year of special horror. From Africa to Russia, there are many examples of misgovernment, corruption and economic foolishness. But more of the world is freer and better-run than before; and some important countries, such as Iran, are slowly rejoining the rest of the world.

Here in Britain, as in other developed countries, we were embroiled in no conflict and became richer. There were the gold-rush stories from the City to the privatised company hoardrooms. But leaving them aside, wages rose; unemployment fell; hanks and building societies cascaded windfall payments; most house prices rose; and we enjoyed low-inflationary growth. There were fewer coalminers, yes, but many

more computer programmers. Next year will probably be a hit tougher, but a soft economic landing seems likelier than a hard one. The strong pound, which made many people's foreign holidays easier than they would otherwise have been, has produced some export problems, but not of the scale predicted at the time.

As consumers, this was the year many



For huge numbers of people, neither money brokers nor drug dealers, it was also the year when carrying a mobile phone became a habit, became normal. In the year ahead, and the one after that, our televisions will change dramatically, so that we have huge numbers of channels. Digital radio will become a ubiquitous, user-friendly joy. The Net will become much easier to use.

But we have grown richer not just in money or gadgets, but in information. If you could be bothered to, in 1997, you learnt a vast amount of new things about the world and the universe. Images flashing back from the beginning of time; a more sophisticated understanding of the relations between genes and human behaviour: warnings about the asteroid threat and the difficulties of working in space; new information about early man; fresh insights into the effects of the oceans on the climate ... few weeks passed of us bought PCs and joined the Internet. this year when there was not important

BY ANDREW MARR

These are things we have reported and discussed, but often on inside pages, in the husiness section and in supplements. I've tried to bring more of the warp and weft of daily life into the news pages of the pa-

per. I hope this helps explain why. The other big non-political event that touched the country was the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car crash, It was, of course, a ghastly event, particularly for her children, family and many friends, as well as the millions who worshipped her, in an almost religious fashion, from afar, But the effect of the mourning on the nation-

and interesting information to record. It was a time of national catharsis, when we looked at one another anew and recognised just how much we had changed.

Who is that "we"? The country, after all. was divided. Not everyone was weeping or lighting eandles or strewing flowers on the streets of London. Some found the whole thing distasteful and mawkish. But the modes of expression of public grief, emotional, gestural, unashamed, revealed a country much less huttoned-up, formal and reserved than its international image. We are not the country we thought we were. fare and keeping up with the rest of the Eu-It is almost as if the younger British, in particular, are now "in touch with their emoal psyche was enlightening and beneficial. tions", to use the language of pop- as John Major. On a smaller scale, he finds

psychology. The funeral and the days leading up to it were intense. After them, there was a dramatic drop in the number of people seeking psychiatric help, perhaps because they were calmed and cheered by being part of something higger than themselves. The aftermath of Diana's death was not all backward-looking sorrow; it had elments of renewal too.

What, though, of the more predictable news agenda, in particular the political scene? Again, the message of 1997 has been mostly good. The revolution in British pol-

ities can be overstated. We have exchanged one decent, liberalminded prime minister who was struggling with hig questions of reform, for another. Tony Blair's problems in trying to reform welropean Union without entering the first

himself attacked by the press over ministerial hehaviour and by farmers over the continuing beef crisis, just as his predecessor was. The two men are not so ideologically distinct as either would wish us to think. Perhaps Mr Blair is a little more enthusiastic about the Thatcher legacy - certainly, she

The great difference, and good news for Britain, is that Mr Major commanded an exhausted, divided party which was weak in parliament and running out of time, while Mr Blair has a buge majority, a phalanx of energetic and talented ministers and (by the standards of politics; all the time in the world. He has the support of most of the press. The public finances are relatively strong, and strengthening.

All of this is good news simply because it means he has a far better chance of achieving the necessary modernisation than Mr Major ever did.

Some of that modernising would be anathema to almost any Tory, of course: the constitutional changes - from the steps towards devolution to a serious national debate on voting reform, to the proposed abolition of hereditary peers as political players - are all long-overdue. The seven Blairite months of 1997 did not give us the impression of a government of passionate or particularly well-organised political reformers but still, they have done more reform work already than any other administration since the war, But there will be much more in the year ahead - the detailed legislation setting up the Scottish and Welsh assemblies, and the great debate about London's elected mayor.

What about reform of the welfare state? The cuts to single-parent benefit and possible cuts in disability payments have al-ready caused Mr Blair his hardest moments since taking office.

But no one doubts his iron will on the overarching issue now. In a preview of 1998 recently published by the Economist, Chris Patten, one of the Tories' lost leaders, reflected that "Sooner or later, governments will have to make hard choices. When Britain's Labour government, like other centre-left governments, declines to do so Mr Hague's Tories must have something coherent to say." He was barely in print before he was out of date. .

The new government has been less adept at beginning the national debate about welfare reform, and choosing its targets, than you might have expected. At worst, it has seemed harsh. In other areas, it has not yet demonstrated that it can deliver on educational reform, or is wise in picking its friends. But by any standards, it has made a cracking start, perhaps the most exhilaratingly fast-paced political debut from any adinistration this century.

Adn that's good too. Isn't it? Sometimes it seems that we are a cynical, grumpy nation, loathing our world decline and terminally nostalgic. But looking back at 1997, there is really no excuse for being a whingeing Brit. Overall, this has been a year of very good omens at home and abroad.

At The Independent, we have enjoyed ourselves reporting and arguing about them; and we hope you have enjoyed the paper; and we wish you, our readers, a lively, enlightening and lucky year ahead.

Earthquake in Enfield: the night Middle England turned red

memory, has so quickly spawned its own folklore. Were you still up for Portillo? demanded the title of one book. To miss the defining moment when the then defence secretary knew he had been rejected by the electors of Enfield North was to be left woofully out of a rare collective experience, like failing to see a winning goal at a FA Cup Final, only much, much worse. Portillo made an unusually graceful speech after the count. But that

1:50

wasn't the point. His defeat at super-Tory Enfield North - even for those not gleefully celebrating his demise as a Thatcher heir-apparent dramatised, as no other result could have done, a landslide on a scale unimaginable when the polls had closed a few hours earlier. It was a few minutes after the Enfield count that, flushed with excitement and scarcely able to absorb the seismic nature of the results across the country, the Blairite intellectu-Downing Street staff, could think of only three words to stammer as he left a BBC par-

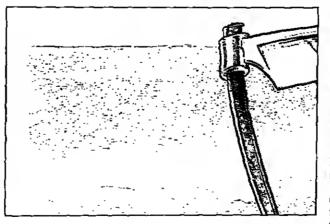
stating the case. The scale of the victory was all the more mysterious because it had, in the end. nothing to do with the previous month's frantic campaigning. The widespread perception among commentators that Labour had fought a brillianthy successful election campaign was shared by the voting public. Thirty-six per cent of voters thought that Labour had fought the most effective campaign. compared with only 11 per cent for the Conservatives, and 13 per cent for the Liberal Democrats. Judged by measurable results this was nonsense. The most striking effect of four weeks of intense electoral activity was precisely the opposite: an actual reduction in Labour's poll lead over the Tories from an impossible 25 points to a still scarcely credible 13.

The roots of those results on that extraordinary night went much, much further back than the campaign itself. Dick Crossal Geoff Mulgan, now on the man remarked a generation ago that "an election is the end of a long process". The implosion of British Conservatism isn't easy to summarise. The

He was massively under- ERM catastrophe had inflicted irreparable damage on the credibility of the John Major government, as the 1907 devaluation had on Wilson's. Privatisation had proved an incontestable success in making efficient the lumbering state industries it replaced. But it also created a hugely enriched superclass, which the public was far less ready to accept.

The electorate wasn't, in the end, prepared to give the credit for an economic recovery to a government which had refused to take the hlame for a recession. It was unforgiving about sleaze (drawing an infinitely more sophisticated distinction than the tabloid press had done between financial misdemeanours and sexual heterodoxy). And ahove all it was repelled by a party ideologically at war with itself, especially on Europe.

But it was still an election won as well as lost. As David Butler and Denis Kavanagh summarised this epochal event in the closing words of their authoritative Nuffield College Study: "The Conservatives, 18 years in power, provided the op-portunity. Labour seized it."



BLAIR'S VICTORY BY DONALD MACINTYRE

was Blair's supreme achievement in opposition. While Neil Kinnock had heroically eliminated the phisanous legacy of the early-Eighties, unscrambling the electorally hopeless positions on Europe, defence unashamedly embracing Marand internal democracy, and regaret Thatcher's restructuring

That Labour was able to do so stored to Labour some of the respeciability it had enjoyed in the Seventies, Blair had gone much further. Certainly, Blair was an exceptionally attractive leader. But the party he brought to the election was also transformed:

of the economy. It offered an any election since 1970, though ideological third way which would seek to heal the social divisions which that restructuring had brought in its wake. Neither old left, went the mantra, nor new right. No longer prepared to tax in order to spend, it also, for the first time in the party's history, promised less than it intended to deliver. And the electorate responded to Blair as it had to Thatcher in 1979, only

The one party that can have truly been said to have benefited from the election campaign itself was the Liberal Democrat Party, which saw its vote share rise to 17 from 13 per cent. One of the peculiar features of the 1997 electorate was its ruthless use of tactical voting. As a result, the Liberal Democrats beat the system they had so long wanted to reform. The third party, with 46 seats. more than in any election since 1929, benefited to an extraordinary degree from the willingness of And so did Labour, maybe lower than any between 1945 and 1966. But the total anti-Tory vote of 61.6 per cent blasted all previous 20th-century records.

The scale of this defeat

brought in its wake potential problems as well as untold advantages for Labour, Vigorous opposition and narrow majoriries can be tough disciplinarians. The fact that Blair is confronting neither may have played a modest part in the revolt this month over the badlymanaged cuts in lone-parent henefit. But those cuts are a harhinger for perhaps his toughest task. Welfare reform, while explicitly foreshadowed in the manifesto, was least discussed in detail before or during the election. Which is one reason why, as shown by the David Blunkett letter leaked last weekend, Cabinet ministers are agonising about some of it now. The ending of free university tuition - a hard choice managed with outstanding skill by that electors to vote indiscriminately same David Blunkett - and the for the anti-Tory candidate. switch from legal aid to no-win no-fee lawyers' services, are Blair did "only" secure 44.6 per both aspects of of welfare recent of the vote - more than in form. But it also means a more did.

far-reaching attempt than the Tories would have dared, to end the dependency culture and replace it with one of work; to lift the aspirations of those trapped in cut-off, no-hope estates, to target benefits to those who need them and reduce them for those who don't; and in the process find more money for education and health. Blair shows no sign of being diverted from this task; those who try to thwart him from the backbenches may have to face the consequences.

And he has the room to drive through the most ambidous programme of constitutional reform this century, to take just one example, the reform of the Lords which ran into the ground in the Sixties, is now, if not easy, attainable. On education and health, on youth jusuce, on the minimum wage, he has already begun to redeem his promises. But winning as new Lahour means governing as new Labour. The one heresy he will never accept is the one that says since he won so massively it wasn't therefore necessary to transform the party as far as he

Don't be scared of the nanny instinct; it means well

; Has this year seen the dawn of a frightening new puritanism? If the Tories weren't dead in the water, drowned rats that have lost the will to swim, they could now be launching a good new line of attack on Labour. They would stride out bearing libertarian banners, commandeering that infinitely versatile word "freedom". It might prise open a promising new vulnerable point on one of Labour's flanks.

This is how the Tory offensive would look: within months of coming into office, the Government has set about hanning. stopping and disapproving of things. It is invading the citizen's private space, making bossy decisions on our behalf, officious-

ly telling people what to do. With subtle hints, the Tories could suggest this is a lingering hangover from the Communist command-economy mentality, an inevitable residue of years of socialism. Get the State Out of Our Hair! William Hague might proclaim (if he had any).

Beef is the most recent libertarian heef. How dare the

THE NEW PURITANISM BY POLLY TOYNBEE

million risk? I find the right's obsession with beef-eating fascinating. Personally, I couldn't care less if I never ate a rih of beef again. There's plenty of other meat to be bad. But beef symbolism - all red-hlooded Bluff King Hal, Old England, Hearts of Oak - seems to strike some raw nerves (or ganglions)

Did the Government have to do it? Yes. The Tories fudged and avoided taking strong enough action at the start of the BSE crisis and made things infinitely worse. It may he an absurdly small risk, hut Governments can't play around with public confidence in food, or importers' confidence in British products. It may be out of devices according to medically unnecessary but it was

nothing to do with over-protective nannyish sentiments.

However, once the Nanny State hounds are in full cry, all kinds of other oddments of stories flare up to join the general hullabaloo. The housing minister is so PC he is banning doorsteps because the disabled can't get up them in their wheelchairs. Mad? Scary?

Will teams of local government commissars come round and condemn your doorstep? No. it's a perfectly sensible policy for new housing, based on pilot schemes, showing how all new houses should be made easily adaptable for a lifetime - so as people get older they don't need to move. It stops the wasteful putting in and taking who is living in a house at the



Foxhunters hounded: The Government will find it increasingly difficult to ban hunting with hounds on moral grounds

ly worth a bue and cry. True, the idea of putting a warning at the top of racing-car video games telling people not to drive like "Don't Try This At Home.

like many silly warnings issued by the last government ("Warning. This Drink is Hot!" - on hot-drink containers) but hard-

to look at tobacco advertising. The tobacco industry would not spend billions on promotion if it didn't boost its sales. Most that themselves is daft - a lyacurtailment of our freedom. smokers (like me) desperately want to stop and no one wants Nor is our freedom threat-Government ban beef on the politically essential - and had time. Boring, I know, but hard- Kids!" for adults. Silly, maybe, ened one iota by forbidding us their children to start, so the only

freedom curtailed is the tobacco industry's avaricious desire to kill us all. The only serious freedom issue at the moment seems to me to be fox-hunting. where many people's immense, if bizarre, pleasure is about to be abolished by the tyranny of a sentimental majority.

However, the Government still has time to wriggle out of this one, and it should.

Eaters of battery chickens or farmed salmon are more cruel to animals over their whole lifetimes than fox-bunters ending a free animal's life in a brief, hrutish manner. There is no good objective reason for banning it - and if it were a working-class habit, no one would lay a finger on it.

However, if it is hunted down hy a rampant Commons. it will not be because the Govemment willed it out of any nannyish instincts, but because it was too cowardly to protect an unpopular minority in the face of a stampeding majority.

Is this government really becoming the nanny from hell? I see very little sign of it in its policies. However, there is a new puritanism in its style.

Ministers conduc selves in sober, rather dull ways. You don't feel they are much fun, or that they have much fun except maybe Peter Mandelson, who has an unlikely, louche set of friends of a very different Tory and Goldsmithian lavish emertaining kind. Or Robin Cook with his horse-racing.

They are a lot more puritanical than the last Labour government. Many Wilson ministers lived a high old life, some of them pretty rich, very unlike Blair's family-centred, clean-living, down-home types.

Who gives dinner parties like Tony Crosland used to, or great soirces like Harold Lever? And the new puritanical style is more than skin-deep. It's curious that New Labour ministers cannot possibly send their children to private schools, nor even grammar schools, nor use private health, while Wilson's old Labour cabinet was full of ministers with children at Westminster or St Paul's.

Harold Lever, a Manchester millionaire, a key Wilson economic minister, was never subjected to scrutiny of his business alliairs as Geoffrey Robinson has

tr's partly that the post Murdoch-era press has become so tendencies.

much nastier and less tolerant.

The right-wing press yearns for any sign of hypocrisy or champagne socialism among Labour ministers - so although the Blairs could afford to drink champagne for breakfast, lunch and tea, they preserve their image as homey, churchy people.

How long before Mandelson has to sew M & S labels into his Armani clothes to show this interestingly extraordinary man is just a regular guy? Ironically, the champagne did flow freely in the old days when Labour ministers really did think of themselves as socialists. However, that's all a matter of style, taste and image. not of important substance. When it comes to sinister puritanism, the family values fias-

'Who gives dinner parties like Tony Crosland used to, or great soirées like Harold Lever?'

co that sank John Major's crew was a good lesson, well-learnt by Labour.

When Rohin Cook was caught out having an affair and then left his wife, it was a oneday ripple without the values resonance that would have made the story run and run had he heen a Tory.

That is reassuring. Labour may like a scrubbed-family image, but they have had no truck so far with the kind of family values that seek to damn others for the lives they live. I see no threat to the hard-won liberal freedoms that really matter. Indeed. I predict the steady rolling out

For all the clean sincerity and earnestness of the new government, they are all of them deep-dyed liherals at heart: whatever the Conservatives say ahout freedom, (usually of the Ritz-dining variety) it is they at heart who want to constrict and constrain our lives whenever they get the chance. Give me Lahour's worry over listeria in pasteurised cheese any time over the Tory Mary Whitehouse and Victoria Gillick

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Even through our tears we were surprised by what we saw; we didn't realise how much we had changed



Sea of emotion: There were many unforgettable images during that remarkable week: the flag-draped coffin, the young princes dressed in black, Earl Spencer in the Abbey

While there are those who argue that we all went mad for a week in September, that the death of a rather silly, self-obsessed women was hlown out of all proportion, that her passing meant no more or less than the death of any other individual, that nothing has really changed, the event that will keep 1997 in our memories for years to come was, of course, the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Who gives dinner

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No one could have predicted the reaction: the Ballardian nature of her demise, the huge display of public grief, the sense of national reassessment that with the equation of any kind of spectacle of a Labour leader try nately fascist. This fear of the 20th century. Instead, we look on in amazement as we behaved as if we were living in another country. And we were. It was just that no one realised that this new country was ours, that it has been for some time and what felt like new territory for some was already home for I am struck by their triteness in many others.

... Three months later we are asking if it meant anything at all. I said at the time that to look for a direct political correlate to arise from the shock and grief surrounding Diana's death was were moments of anti-monarchy feeling akin to, but not the same thing as, republicanism. There was revulsion expressed for the stuffiness of the royals, there was a feeling of a new beginning, an optimism about New Labour, a relief at the ending of Tory rule, a building mistrust of all institutions. All these things were in the air hat not in a consciously politicised way.

Much of what was expressed was expressed in the first person. That was what was admired about Diana. She validated personal experience; she re-wrote the script to suit herself. Even though she was a star, somehow not of this world, what you heard repeated was that she was a real person, she spoke from the heart, she was authentic.

Her modernity, in contrast to the rest of the royals, embodied a cultural shift, a fresh way of doing things, that doesn't fit into neat political categories. These repercussions are still being felt throughout society. Diana was not a feminist but she was a product of the raising of female expectations brought about by feminism. She understood instinctively that the personal was political, for she lived a life in which she was expected to suppress her personal feeling because of public duty.

The scenes of mourning that filled our papers and screens in September were unlike anything we had seen before, yet of course there were dissenters, who thought it was all too much fuss about nothing. While I am prepared to accept that their feelings were perfectly genuine, they do not seem to accept that the feelings of those at Kensington Palace or in the Mall were equally genuine.

It was easier to dismiss this collective grief as hysteria, as fuelled by the media, as essentially

THE DEATH OF DIANA BY **SUZANNE** MOORE

empty. Some of this was to do was in the atmosphere, the massing together of people as indarkest of the Thatcher years. Where some saw a floral revo-"Those who Felt Differently", in Granta.

Yet in looking back at the remarks of so many intellectuals. comparison with the self-awareness and thoughtfulness of the "ordinary people" I spoke to at the time. One by one, from Gore Vidal downwards, these great men told us the crowds were not really grieving for Dialways a mistake. Yes, there ana but for themselves, as if we didn't know that, as if grief did

We had simply recognised that **Britishness** need not be stuck in the 19th century'

not always contain this element, as if it is not possible to feel a connection with someone you didn't know. No one said this when we cried for the poor bairns of Dunblane.

In contrast, members of the

public told me that they were grieving for what had happened to this country in the last 18 years, that when someone dies you re-evaluate your own life, your own priorities and that's what they felt we should all be doing as a nation. They told me that it was rare to witness real goodness in a public figure. that they themselves were surprised about how they felt and, most memorahly, I can still hear a Rasta guy saying: "She's like a magnet, man. Even though she's dead she's still a magnet - pulling people towards

I saw dignity and though 1 saw tears being shed and shed my own, people were not overwhelmed by their feelings but quietly in control of them. We had not suddenly become American or European. We had simply recognised that Britishness need not be stuck in the 19th century.

Since her death, some have railed against the new "emotional correctness", where feelings must be shown at all times. Indeed, the behaviour of some of Louise Woodward's supporters could not have been more inappropriate and undignified, Emotional correctness, though, like political correctness, is a term only used by those who prefer the repressive status quo.

Popular culture has for years been moving in the direction of the subjective, the confessional, the unashamedly emotional. Official public culture has yet to catch up with these changes. Earl Spencer's speech struck this note and I will always remember the mutinous ripple of applause that spread from outside the cathedral to the inside.

Cytics argue that while we ing to drag the monarchy into crowds was instilled during the became touchy-feely for a week or so, that much-heralded new sensitivity has not materialised. lution, Ian Jack reports the Indeed, when the Government phrase "floral fascism" in cuts henefits to the poorest women and children, it seems a joke.

Diana's death, though, coming after the Labour victory, the hype of Cool Britannia, the talk of re-branding Britain, gave much rise to much discussion of the New Britain, as though such an identity could arise fully formed and uncontested. We saw in Diana a woman

seeking to find herself, to somehow speak a more intimate and personal language within the discourse of public life. We saw a woman trying to reshape a role for herself when she had been used for little more than breeding in captivity. And we saw in the midst of the mourning for her a desire to do things differently.

We wanted tradition thrown over in the name of honest emotion. Now at least we know that the Queen is capable of grieving in public; she shed a tear at the loss of her yacht, something she did not do publicly for the loss of her daughter-in-law.

The royals have learnt to accept what they could not accept when Diana was alive, that they have to change. Tony Blair has stepped in to advise them, which is worrying, given his pledges on constitutional reform.

Earl Spencer has been shown to be a complete bastard. though I don't see how that makes his speech any less powerful. The rest of us have gone back to normal. Or not quite. for something has changed.

Diana's death meant that just for a while we saw ourselves not as we were told we were, not as we used to be, but as we are now. Even through our tears we

were surprised by what we saw; we didn't realise how much we had changed. But we had. Why it took the death of a confused and over-privileged woman to show this to each other I don't know. All I do know is that while we have lost her, I hope that we do not lose the values of love and compassion that she was seen to have represented and that for an extraordinary week we were not ashamed to talk openly about in public as well as in private.

The event that defined the year was really one in which, in an unprecedented way, we were seeking to define ourselves.



When the worst of times became a time for conciliation



The peacemaker: Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who has come to personify the climate of hope in the province

In Northern Ireland, what started looking like a bad year wound up as one of the best of

It hegan with death and destruction; it closed with most of the parties at the talks table, and most of the guns silent.

the obstacles and problems ahead are daunting.

The peace process is fraught with dangers and pressurepoints which could, and almost certainly will, cause great disruption.

It is a fair bet that significant acts of violence lie ahead.

Yet there is also a sense that the idea of a peace process is taking deeper and deeper root. The original concept of in-

clusivity - the theory that those who had used violence for so many years might be brought into a new system rather than perpetually frozen out - was highly controversial. Its early exponents, such as John Hume, were reviled, their

moves to bring in the violent appeasement of terrorism. But as the year ends, the inclusive philosophy of the peace process seems on the way to becoming the political norm.

At the heginning of the year the key question was whether Photograph: Brian Harris another 25-year cycle of vio-

PEACE IN IRELAND BY DAVID McKITTRICK

It hardly needs saying that lence was in the making. The IRA had just bombed the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters; one soldier was killed and others had near-miraculous

> Spring brought IRA disruption of English motorway traffic and postponement of the Grand National, while in Belfast there were sporadic loyalist killings. Political talks. which were going on in Belfast without Sinn Fein, seemed to be

escapes.

going nowhere. But then the election changed everything.

Where John Major had played it long, mindful always of Ulster Unionist suspicion and disapproval of the whole project. Tony Blair and Mu-Mowlam, Secretary of State prodigals easily caricatured as for Northern Ireland, went for

> Early setbacks made it all look hopeless; the IRA shot two police officers and handling of the annual Drumeree marching controversy soured relations between nationalists and the

Things were so had, coming up to the main 12 July Orange marches, that 400 extra troops were drafted.

But then the Orange Order called oft some contentious marches, transforming the atmosphere at a stroke.

Even so, the IRA truce of 20 July came generally as a sur-

The Government, undeflected by continuing violence and communal friction, had systematically addressed republican preconditions for a cessation by, for example, dropping Mr Major's demand for prior decommissioning of IRA weapons.

The republicans were impressed by the Government's willingness to engage with their concerns: they were impressed too by Labour's huge majority and that in Dublin a new government was headed by Fianna Fail, well-disposed towards the peace process.

Unlike the IRA truce of 1994, the second cessation was not greeted with euphoria.

between moderates and militants; the Ulster Unionist party has critics outside its ranks and within them. And there is still violence.

two vers

The IRA killed three people before its ceasefire but loyalist violence claimed 11 lives throughout the year.

The major republican and loyalist groups are inside the process but others, smaller but potentially deadly, are on the outside and intent on wrecking. the door for political progress,

The second time round

everyone had learnt hard

lessons, and knew there were no

guarantees it would bold in all

paving the way for a series of

None the less, it unlocked

Labour judged that its ma-

ority gave it leeway to exert

strong pressure on Unionists to

get into talks with Sinn Fein. It

may also have judged that the

general Protestant population

was more ready for dialogue

Fein. Tony Blair sbook the hand

of Gerry Adams, first in Belfast

and then, with tremendous sym-

holic significance, inside 10

Viewed up close on a day-to-

day basis, it has often heen te-

dious. The talks continue but

the pace is glacially slow, and

Downing Street.

politicians suggested.

circumstances.

historic moments.

Next year will hring many esting moments. Will the truces hold? Can the outsiders disrupt the process? Can Sinn Fein and the IRA accept an outcome which delivers something less

than the often negative and hostile attitude of some Unionist Autumn brought momenand Unionist communities can tous events. The Rev Ian Paisbe described as unfriendly and ley opted out of the talks even hostile. Recurring marchprocess, but David Trimble, afing controversies and political ter soul-searching, led his largdisagreements have left much er Ulster Unionist Party into a hitterness in many minds. process which included Sinn

failed to agree even an agenda for the new year. Unionists sit in the same room as Sinn Fein but will not talk to them. From one perspective this can seem dispiriting and ominous. So too can the fissures which opened within so many important components: some members of the IRA and Sinn Fein resigned, fearing a sell-out; ern Ireland finally turned the the Orange Order seems split

than the republican goal of Irish unity? There are many other contentious issues, including prison releases and policing re-It is also the case that relations between the nationalist

Viewed against this background, the events of the year seem even more startling. The year began with war; it has not ended with peace, for that can only he declared with any confidence after the emergence of political agreement and the successful operation of new arrangements.

earlier this month the parties That will take years and there are no guarantees the process will stay on the rails. Yet the year closes with an immeasurably better situation than it opened; with hopes that political breakthroughs can be made and with hope that historians may some day conclude that 1997 was the year when North-

How the Far East miracle went west

In terms of its speed, unexpectedness and its potential etfeet on the lives of people all over the world, the East Asian economic crisis was the crisis of 1997, and it is certainly not over yet. What began in July with the collapse of the Thai baht ends the year with the continuing plummet of the Korean won having, in between, caused varying degrees of mayhem in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan. Singapore

and Hong Kong. Despite \$100bn of promised aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the plunge of the region's currencies shows few signs of hottoming out, but the response to the erisis outside the region has fallen into two distinct phases. For the first few months of the crisis, much foreign comment treated it as a spectator event, an object of fascinated, but abstract, interest and more than a little schudenfreude. It appeared to confirm a fashionable argument, most trenchantly argued by the economist Paul Krugman - that the "Asian tiger" model of high growth and agressive investment is inusustainable in the long run.

But since November, when the contagion spread to South Korea and Japan, the focus has shifted from the theoretical to the practical: what effect is Asia's pain going to have on the rest of the world?

For those without specialised husiness interests, a weak Thai baht means little more than cheaper holidays in Phuket, As Indonesia followed and, to a lesser degree, Malaysia and the Philippines, so did cheap holidays in Bali, Penanag and Mindanan.

But when the contagion spread to Korca, it was a different matter. People don't take package tours to Pusan. And, as the former eleventh largest economy in the world. the pain of the Korean squeeze is being felt around the world. The stifled sniggering at the difficulties of the tigers was silenced this week with a prediction by the IMF, that the Asian crisis will cut one per cent off growth next year throughout the world.

Korea's credit rating has sunk below those of Croatia and El Salvador, making it impossible for companies to fund

TIGERS TAMED BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

their amhitious overseas plans. In Britain alone, the huge Samsung and Daewoo conglomerates announced

"postponement" of hillions of pounds worth of plants and jobs. And the crisis is not purely an economic one: what began as a series of events in the financial markets, is also throwing up political problems.

Despite their eclipse by the chaos in the markets, Asia's political tensions remain, and they are exacerbated by financial insecurity - if the reunification of North and South Korea looked a tricky and expensive proposition before, it appears doubly so now, with the South's economy on its knees. But the higger problem is the psychological effect of the collapse of the Asian tigers, and the tremendous blow they have suffered to self-esteem. Responsibility for manag-

ing this tension will fall in large part to Britain, as new EU president, and host of the secand Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) in London next spring. The shock of sudden collapse has understandably strained nerves and tempers, and there have been ugly and sinister outhursts made worse by the West's gloating. The insinuations by the Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, that the whole thing was part of a Jewish conspiracy orchestrated by the speculator George Scros did nothing to restore the faith of investors in his country. In Korea, demonstrators have accused the IMF, and its American and Japanese backers, of economic "imperialism" in making conditions for the bail nut of their country.

The world has seen nationalist movements flourish before on the back of economic collapse. It seems, for the moment, a distant fear - but then a year ago, so did the present state of affairs. Either way, the history of the 1997 crisis will not be clear until well into next year.



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A tale of two cities - with two very different endings

A baby-sitter is accused of murdering the infant in her care. Born into a white suburban home on the outskirts of one of America's higgest cities, the toddler's name was Matthew and his life lasted just a few short months. The trial is complicated and laden with conflicting medical evidence. But the jury apparently has little difficulty in reaching a verdict: the defendant is life imprisonment.

Read this, and unless you spent 1997 on a different planet, you would be forgiven for assuming the child in this case was eight-month-old Matthew Eappen and the childminder the 19-Woodward. You would be wrong. Nor, by the way, is the city Boston. It is Chicago.

The trial of Donna Gist ended 10 days ago. She was convicted in a DuPage Country Court on 15 December of the murder of Matthew Hendrickson, who was four months old. house was not besieged by refact, the Gist trial harely regisno Free Donna Gist Campaign. giving her hack her freedom.

The easiest explanation for Gist case was that Court TV tures from the Woodward trial ry took on. to Sky News and the news buled in the trial. Gist was not She is also black.

go Tribune columnist Eric Zorn, as the Gist trial wound down. But is was not just Woodward's in the area? colour that was important, Zom

LOUISE WOODWARD TRIAL BY DAVID USBORNE

the trial obviously thought it was

oot. And even if we are not our-

us have been there and know

tecnagers who are there now.

warmed to Woodward - in-

deed, we may, since the trial's

end, have concluded privately

that she was responsible some-

how for Matthew's death even

if she did not plot to murder him

- but we think we can easily di-

trial started: the lawyers hired

to represent Woodward, a

workaday pair of defence

lawyers from Boston's water-

Good, had managed to recruit

Barry Scheck to their team, al-

ready famous as one of the

"dream team" that represent-

whom almost everyone could

identify in this case," said Shari

Turner, a professor at Boston University. "It mainstreamed

stance, people are enormously

The public impact of the

ambivalent about child care."

Woodward trial - it took up all

of October and will come blaz-

ing back in March, when the

Massachusetts Supreme Court

begins hearings on appeals from

both sides - would not matter if we believe this from Judge Zo-

bel: that in making his decision

on whether to revise the origi-

nal jury verdict he was able

completely to isolate himself

reported being bombarded with

letters, phone calls. FedEx

In one of his many off-therecord chais with journalists, be

from all the ballyhoo.

"There was someone with

ed OJ Simpson.

There was some celebrity at-

vine her.

said. "If the au-pair trial cynics had asked if everyone would have been so fascinated by Louise Woodward's story had is found guilty and the sentence she been white but 15 years older and a career caregiver of and university, when new horimore modest means and zons suddenly open up, many of prospects, the answer would have been the same: No." Thus, if Woodward had not been a young, intelligent, not badlooking white girl with, one asyear-old British au pair Louise sumes, hopes of a happy and fruitful life, would we have seen such an outcry when her original guilty verdict came down on 30 October? Events in

Chicago suggest not. When she counts her fortunes, Woodward will doubtless traction to the case before the think first of her trial judge, Hiller Zobel. He stunned the lc-The similarities between this gal world on 10 November and the Woodward case were when he slashed the jury senstriking. More important is this tence from murder to front named Silverglate and singular difference: the court- manslaughter and freed her on the 279 days she had already porters and television crews. In served. But she might also pause to ponder why her case tered outside the court. Nor did - unlike Gist's - so fired emoher conviction. There has been tion and the role that played in

Most journalists who covered the absence of publicity in the trial will probably admit they were not prepared for the extrathe cable channel that fed pic- ordinary dimensions that the sto- some of the issues. For in-

Even in hindsight, it is not imlotins of ITN and the BBC-did mediately apparent why it comnot cover it. Even if the cameras manded the headlines in the way had been there, it is a fair bet it did, and for so long. But the anfew would have been interest- swer surely lies in the trial's cast. For readers of newspapers

Woodward, At 34, she is near- and followers of the television ly twice Woodward's age and news, this was a tragedy filled comes from a poor background. with players familiar to us. And we could identify with the issues To the unfortunate extent raised. Was it right for that race plays a role in social Matthew's parents, Deborah standing in our society, that Gist and Sunil, professionals on the is black is doubtlessly a factor threshold of successful medical in her obscurity." wrote Chica- careers, to sub-contract care for their two young children to a teenager with scant experience

The authors of the hate-mail packets and telegrams from

people all around the country offering advice on what he should do. He ignored it all, he said, just like he ignored the tidal waves of opinion and punditry on the television and in the newspapers.

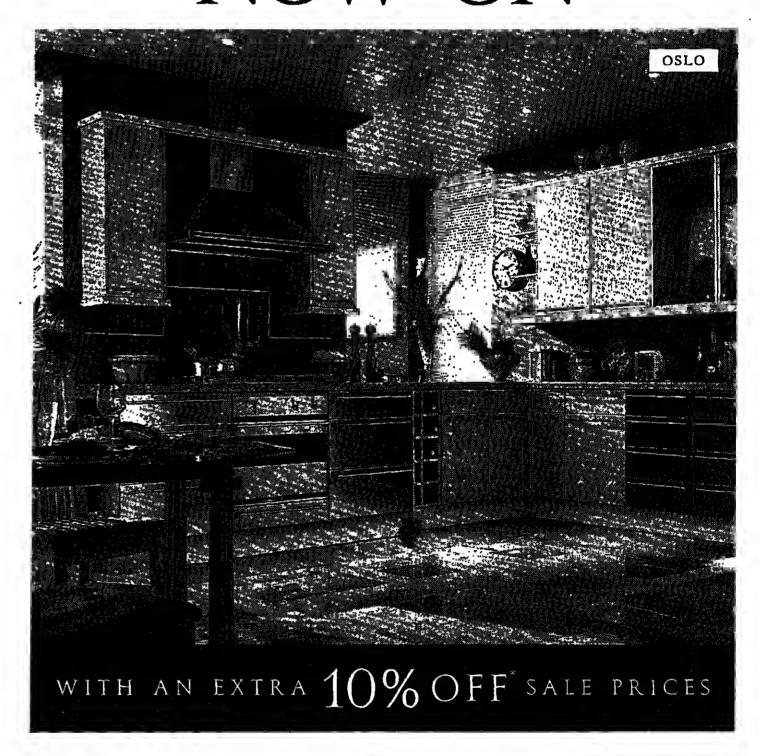
Well, possibly, But ask yourthat buried the Eappens during self this: had the cameras not been in court for Woodward's trial, had there not been such intense interest in it as it played selves 18-year-olds in that tantalising gap year between school out and had there not been such a tornado of public reaction to her initial conviction on 30 October, are we really to believe that Judge Zobel would have Some of us may not have come back 10 days later in the way that he did and overturned that conviction?

> If you are not sure of the answer, think about Donna Gist. And don't hold your breath waiting for her judge to bring her fast-minute salvation.



Spotlight: It is hard to believe media coverage did not influence the judge in the Woodward case Photograph: Jim Bourg/AP

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Brown envelopes, white knights and humping humbug

1997, of course, was the year that sleaze ended. It finished on the night of 1 May, when the nation purged itself with the higgest bout of colonic irrigation in our electoral history. In one great swoosh, the cleansing waters swept round the heads of the body politic, and flushed out all the en- correspondent. Martin Bell, Prime Minister" become, "the ed over nearly 20 years. On 2 May we felt light and empty, ready for anything.

Only nine months ago, it all seemed so different. The wavy lines appear on our mental screens, and we are transported back in time and space to the middle of March. To find the Prime Minister, John Major, telling the House of Commons why the Downey report on cash-for-questions cannot be ready before the general election that he has

called, just two days earlier. Neil Hamilton wants us to see the report, too. He is anxious to remove from his repntation the taint of having heen a brown envelope recipient of Mohamed Al Fayed, the Mad Avenging Egyptian. Hospitality at the Ritz, well all right. Backhanders, not on your nelly. Which is why he will not stand down at the forthcoming election, but will vig-Orously contest his Tatton seat.

Meanwhile, the Sun captures a Beckenham Tory, Piers Merchant, in a clinch with a 17year-old "friend of the family". Fearful that he might be discovered if he spogs the aptly named Ms Cox indoors, Merchant tries to evade scrutiny by giving her one on a park bench in public view. Momentarily disconcerted, the Sun rallies and takes the snaps. No one's business, but a great story. Especially with the erection, sorry, election, days away. Merchant survives - for the moment.

Sleaze dominates the early part of the campaign. So, back to Tatton, and enter the Man in White. Wounded war

BY DAVID AARONOVITCH

POLITICAL SLEAZE

crusted crud that had accret- declares that he will run as the anti-sleaze candidate. And is written off by many as a naif, who will fall in the first bail of arrows, as battle begins.

On 1 May, Bell wins, Blair wins, Paddy wins, Alex wins, even Dafydd wins. But the Tories, inseparable in the public mind from sleaze, lose big time. Everyone absorbs the and he gived until he had givlessons of this, which is that there must now be full, open accountability. And a privacy law. So we enter the dreamtime

of the Blair honeymoon, during which we can deal with a few hits of unfinished business. Neil Hamilton is indicted by Downey, appeals to the Commons select committee, and gains some small sympathy when it refuses his plea that Mr Fayed be questioned. And Piers Merchant proves

the wisdom of his earlier al fresco strategy, by being filmed humping the friend under a duvet in York. Now not only is it no one's business, but no one cares. Except the Sunday Mirror, the Merchants and their Cox. Piers stands down, and the Torics hang on to the seat by a thousand votes.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, is discovered to be baving an affair. admits it, separates from his wife, and lives with his lover, and - 10 the chagrin of the Tories, no one outside his family and circle of friends and the Daily Mail considers it their concern. Sleaze is dead!

It is replaced by a Freedom of Information Bill. The lobby system of unattributable press briefings is modified, so that "sources close to the Prime Minister's Press Secretary". An era in British politics is coming to an end. We have commissioners for every form of behaviour, and all is well.

Or would he, if it hadn't been for Bernie Ecclestone. Bernie, once a donor to Tory party funds, had become a large Labour giver. He gived en a million pounds (an amount now referred to as "a bernie"). The fact of his giving was disclosed by Labour. hut not the scale. None of this might have

mattered, had not the PM agreed to see Bernie and pals to discuss tobacco sponsorship of Formula One, and hear their worries that a ban might do them a whole lot of no good at all. When it was known that the Government had (a) bought Bernie's argument, and (b) earlier received a big donation, nasty suspicious minds put two and two together and came up with a million.

As the row deepened Mr Blair went on television, apologised for the misunderstanding, said that he himself had instigated sending the money back to Bernie and that he was now referring the whole matter of party funding to yet another commission.

And finally, there was Paymasier-General Geoffrey Robinson, a rich man in a poor person's party, who was found to have offshore accounts, and subjected by the Tory party and the Guardian to a flurry of resignation demands on the grounds of hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy maybe, but not sleaze. That died in 1997.



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The Britons had sneered and bullied and ruled the roost. No one in Hong Kong, however amnesiac, could ignore that sordid heritage



respect, even affection, as the Old Firm left. But can Britain's democratic legacy endure despite Peking's expectations of obedience

Photograph; Tom Pilstor

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EXCLUSION

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Sure, there were the moments of history to worry about, End of an era, new dawn for the milennium, that sort of thing. But nany Hong Kongers were more oncerned with the weather, Beinning on 30 June, it rained. And rained and rained. City pavements and streets turned nto what seemed like whitevater rapids. Large parts of the ransport system ground to a alt because of landslides, Raintrops mixed with the tears on he cheeks of Chris Patten, the leparting governor.

The floods - dramatic and evere, even by Hong Kong's ropical-downpour standards vere as much of a local talking point as the history that they eemed to eclipse. And yet, the andover of Hong Kong to Chiia was not a wash-out. Almost he opposite: it was remarkable or being so unremarkable.

This enormous and enornously pre-planned event had heoretically been in the sipeline for the past 99 years. ver since the British signed the ease in the imperial "we make ally, the handover had been unler discussion for the past 13 from his colonial masters. ears. And, for the past two ears, large teams were inolved in little else but planning or the Big Day.

Despite that, there were noments when the handover ame perilously close to chaos. There had been so much fancy liplomatic footwork on both ides that some details of etiruette remained confused, even t the eleventh hour. Hence the he Prince of Wales and Chinese resident Jiang Zemin - shall ve sit down? shall we stand up? here must we go? - at the hanlover itself, as the British and hinese flags fluttered photoenically in the fake hreeze (o acky day!) of a wind machine.

Thnusands of journalists naverged an Hang Kong for his last moment of post-coloital ranswintage. The batels hought they would be booked ip months in advance, hence the onfident tripling of the prices. he move backfired somewhat hen it turned out that foolish irgins were richly rewarded; luxrinus rooms were available at mockdown prices to anybody ho avoided making a reservainn until the very last moment. loteliers were seriously disruntled, as were some of their ut-of-pocket guests.

Unlike some of the other exraordinary moments of histoy in the past few years - the fall ir the release of Nelson Manlong Kong handover was not f 30 June. But drunken and ts of whom simply sat at home and ratched the television.

ant. It was the end of a coloial era - and in that respect was longers, whatever their politopelessly trying to preserve the future are still unanswered. The cople of Hong Kong from the biggest changes are yet to come.

END OF **EMPIRE** BY STEVE **CRAWSHAW**

undemocratic manoeuvrings of Peking. But there had been many years of British rule before that. The Britons had sneered and bullied and ruled the roost, because that was what they were born to do. No Hong Konger, however generous or amnesiac, could ignore that sordid heritage. My single most memorable and shocking encounter during the handover period took place in a little apartment in Kowloon: a meeting with a 101-year-old who grew up during a century of British rule, before finally outliving it. His knowledge of English was confined to a handful all the rules" heyday. Realisti- of obscenities - the words that he had heard most frequently

Now that the British were departing, there was respect, even affection. Above all, everybody knew that this was the beginning of a more Chinese Hong Kong, which is where the real mysteries begin. Many analysts argued that the relative calm during the handover was misleading. As soon as the television crews went, it was said, the crackdown against the deresitations and confusions by mocrats would begin, unnoticed by the rest of the world.

In reality, the democrats have remained almost undisturbed since I July. There are still many who believe that Tung Chee-hwa (multi-millionaire businessman, new chief executive of Hong Kong, and friend of Peking) is, in the words of one official whn knows him well, somewhat "allergic to democracy". But whatever his private beliefs, there has not been the much-heralded crackdown.

Hong Kongers have been thinking more about money than about politics (nothing new, there), as the regional markets have rollercoasted and nosedived in recent weeks and months. Meanwhile, however, the impact of reunification with China will anly begin to be understood as the months and years gn by. Perhaps Hong Kong will gradually be eaten up by the economically successful but politically repressive mainof the Berlin Wall, for example, land Chinese regime. Or perhaps Hong Kong's tiny canker iela in South Africa - the mo- nf democracy - a few millinn nentous importance of the people who don't like being told what to do. and don't mind saylways up-front. The ever prag- ing so - will gradually rot the natic Hong Kongers were res- huge Communist apple. The dutely laid-back. There were endlessly parroted official line ome celebrations on the night is that Hong Kong and China will continue to have "one rere more exuberant than the country, two systems". But that long Kongers themselves, most will only last for a limited time.

By 2047, even according to the official agreement, there will None the less: it was impor- be one system: in practice, the convergence may come much sooner. Will the jails of Hong artly welcomed by all Hong Kong fill up with free-thinkers - or will the hardline regime in al beliefs. Many in Britain Peking be the one to crumble? ame to identify the British Six months after the Britannia gacy with the governorship of glided into the Hong Kong Thris Patten: heroically or night, the questions about the







Hypocrisy and deceit: the essential ingredients for war

Madeleine Albright, America's increasingly ineffectual Secretary of State, described 1997 as "not a good year for the peace process". It was a disaster, which in the coming months may well bring war to the Middle East.

As usual in the region, 1997 started in bypocrisy and deceit. The Algerian government announced that "terrorism was on its last legs". Then a series of mass atrocities - the systematic throat-cutting by supposed "Islamisis" of thousands of women and children in the poor villages of the Mitidja plain - proved that the Algerian civil war was now of Bosnian proportions.

A few weeks later, the Egyptian government announced that "the terrorists were finished". Then came Luxor and the murder and mutilation of 58 foreign tourists. In Lebanon, the year began with more talk of the nation's rebirth and reconstruction and ended with massive external debts and growing fear of another war with Israel.

But it was the Arab-Israeli 'peace" that was finally buried turn to dust. this year, when the Israeli Prime

THE MIDDLE EAST BY ROBERT FISK

decided - in total contravention of all the agreements guaranteed by the United States - to build yet another Jewish settlemeot on occupied Arab land. Har Homa, most of the Western press obediently called it - the Arab name of Abu Ghoneim - was

Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, stood by America - whose troops supported the Western armies in the 1991 Gulf War. whose investments have been lodged in New York, whose lands are protected or lived in (or occupied) by American troops - watched appalled, their impotence as obvious as their

'All over the region, Arabs wanted help from Europe. Some hope'

largely forgotten as Israel cre-sense of betrayal. Those Palesated facts on the ground - and the Palestinians, pleading vainly to the Americans, the French, even the British, watched their dreamed-for Palestinian state

Netanyahu then denouoced "terrorism" and accused Arafat of giving the "green light" to the

The pattern is now established. Israel blames Arab "terrorism" for lack of progress in the "peace process" and refuses to make "concessions" (i.e. fulfil Israel's commitments) in the agreement. He then announces new settlements on stolen land - and gives further provocatioo to would-be Palestinian murderers.

By year's end, the corruption of the dictatorial and brutal Arafat was complete when he agreed to allow the CIA to decide which Palestinians should or should not be released from

Mr Netanyahu, meanwhile, went in for a little "terrorism" of his own, sending at least two Israeli murderers to kill an official of Hamas - which claimed at least two of this year's bombtinians who had long since ings - in the capital of friendly Jordan, whose King Hussein is abandoned any allegiance to Yassir Arafat expressed their increasingly despised by his own frustration in a predictably own people for his peace with hloody and terrible way: with Israel. The Israeli secret service was blamed for "botching" the wicked suicide bombings in attempted murder - not for trying to carry it out against all international law - but it was enough to convince the Arabs that Israel did not want peace.

For when Mrs Albright tried to court them to attend the Qatar Arab-Israeli economic summit, almost all boycotted the meeting, preferring instead to turn up at Tehran - in the capital of America's principle adversary in the Middle East - for an Islamic summit at which Iran's new president, Mohamed Khatami, issued an unprecedented call for a dialogue with the "American people". President Clinton, still fearful of the Israeli lobby which now virtually controls US Middle East policy, said be'd like a dialogue too oo "terrorism" and the Middle East "peace process", the two subjects upoo which the Iranians bave oo interest io talking to the Americans.

But the Europeans - baving stormed out of Iran wheo a German court blamed the supreme leadership for the murder of Kurdish oppooents in Berlin crept back to Tehran in the autumn to continue their own dialogue with one of the Middle East's great oil nations. All over the region, Arabs, too, wanted to ask the Europeans - the very nations which created the morasse in which the Middle East finds itself-for belp. They wanted a European initiative, European pressure on Israel and oo America. Some bope.

When Saddam Hussein ordered US weapons inspectors out of Iraq, President Clinton thought be could talk tough and launch a few more cruise missiles at the impoverished Iraqis. The Arabs told him to get lost. When Mrs Albright turned up io the region to dig the longdead peace process out of its grave, the tough-talking secretary of state turned into a mouse, blandly mouthing Israeli government policies, claiming that killing was worse than building houses" - her mendacious reference to stealing Arab land - and suggesting that settlement-building, which contradicts the very foundation of the peace, was legal. By the time she got round to mentioning Palestinian grievances, the Israelis were treating her with the contempt she deserved. At all this, the had guys of

the region rejoiced: Saddam finished the year by telling the Americans they could not visit his palaces, even if they did think a warhead or two might be concealed under the fourposter beds. The Arah "partners for peace" turned up en masse to demonstrate their friendship towards the new Iran. And the Americans went on supporting the Algerian government (which is increasingly implicated in the massacres - or at least the failure to prevent them) and the Egyptian government, whose own corruption and brutality has helped provoke its own home-grown and vicious rebellion. By year's end, the ceasefire

in southern Lebanon was a charade, with villagers being killed - by Hizbollah but more frequently by Israelis - every week, Israel talked about fighting "a war against terrorism on two fronts", suggesting that a coming bloodbath would take place in both the West Bank and Lebanon, But whoever Mr Netanyahu thinks he might be fighting, the question must be asked: who would win!



Another day, another funeral: Algeria, where a civil war of Bosnian proportions has claimed thousands Photograph: Magnum

The Arab oations which had Israel. An even more angry

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MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

1997: when the Teletubbies' star rose, Oasis' fell, and Hale-Bopp blazed a trail across the heavens

Strange beings arrived in Britain all stared at the Hale-Bopp

So we said "Hello Dolly" to in extraordinary cloned sheep. Meanwhile, half the country was aying "Eh-Oh" in imitation of hose spooky things in nappies the Teletubhies.

Children took to tam- ical heasts. igotchis, tiny Japanese elecronic pets, and in the spring we

comet streaking across the sky. Lara Croft, the busty babe in

the computer game Tomb Raider II. took over cyberspace, while Xena, warrior princess, became a star of the

In pop, the hig names of '96 shrank. Out went Oasis, with



Priocess of Wales, took him

back to the top of the charts;

brought him back from the pop

Mick Jagger showed that he was still rock 'n' rollin' by be-

coming a dad at 54; and

Michael Parkinson replayed his

best bits and got a new show for

Elton John's song for Diana, (Wogan is trying the same their indifferent third album and

Britpop lost its edge. We finally realised the Spice Girls were a con. In came souods of the Asian uoderground and Big Beat, while The Verve were the success of the year, with their alhum Urban Hymns. In a retro world, oldies made



The likes of Wham!, Spandau Ballet and break-dancing were big again in an Eighties pop revival as Dullasty dressing - glamour, glitter and sequins returned with big City bonuses.

Fake fur was everywhere knickers, kagouls, you name it - and faux cow bedspreads were

more than a compensation for the hanning of T-bone Buffalo Trainers, with their

Seventies platforms, made jogging hard for the fashionable in their turned-up trousers.

Looking back a little further, the "secret agent" look a la Diana Rigg in The Avengers raged after Liz Hurley's success in Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery: and Medieval Babes cut a CD that made Gregorian chants hip for the first time in cen-

If you wanted to make it big on the London stage, it paid to play dead.

So Sian Phillips excelled in Marlene, while impersonators of Hilda Baker, Kenneth Williams and Oscar Wilde [theatrical face of the year) all drew big

Success as Oscar in the movie Wilde rehabilitated the ubiquitous Stephen Fry; and Michael Collins, the IRA leader, became a star again 75 tridge. years after his assassination, due to a binpic featuring Llam Neeson and because Gerry Adams became the first republican leader to enter Number 10 since the "Big Fellow" in

"Sensution" caused a stir in the art world - promptiog fears of harbarians at the gates of the Royal Academy, which made a portrait of Myra Hindley, comprising children's handprints, the centrepiece of its exhibition.

literary world with her first novel, the Booker-winning God of Small Things. Lord Chadlington of Shaod- pany.

wick PR resigned from running the Royal Opera House. Coodemned for leaving such

Michael Grade stubbed out his last cigar at Channel 4. Bet Lynch and Racquel pulled their last pints oo the Street, while Cindy Beale deserted East-Enders only to return to buge acclaim. Steve Coogan nearly became vesterday's comedian. but was saved by Alan Par-

Kirsty Young, Channel 5's sexy bloode oewscaster, was the big new discovery, putting the wind up the likes of Jon Soow on Channel 4 News. And ordinary folk like Maureen who couldn't pass her test in Driving School and Eileen, the manager from hell in Hotel, became instant stars of the new "reality

early-morning DJ slot from v on Virgin, later joining the ranks of media entreprencurs hy buying a controlling stake in the com-

Since leaving with another

out switched off his microphooe after commentating on his 50th Grand National.

left the crease at 44, one of the all-time greats of county cricket and Dickie Bird called over for the last time. The young sporting pre-

teoders got younger: Tiger Woods won the US Masters and 16-year-old Martina Hingis became the youngest Wimhledon womeo's champion this

Rowse, Isaiah Berlin, Hans Eyseock; from politics, Mobuto Sese Seko, Deng Xiaoping. Chaim Herzog, Hastings Kamuzu Banda, Michael Manley, Georges Marchais, Paul Tsoogas, Paulo Friere; from the clnema, Fred Zinneman, Stubby Kaye, James Stewart and Robert Mitchum; from the arts, Allen Ginsberg, Stephan Grappelli, Jonathan Silver, Roy Liechtenstein, Sir Chris Evans, but Ginger bad the George Solti, William Burlast laugh with the success of his roughs. Laurie Lee, John Denver and rock singer Michael Hutchence.

Giaoni Versace and Sir away. The world mourned Di-



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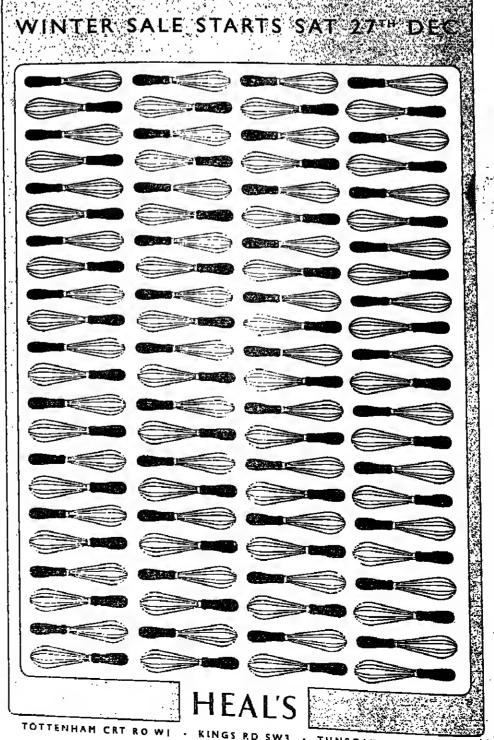
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HELLO, GOODBYE BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

On TV. This Life was smoth-ered and Men Behaving Badly was retired after a final Christmas binge. Farewell, I suspect,

Zoe Ball took over Radio 1's Arundhati Rov wowed the

a mess, applauded for carrying ager with Morgao Grenfell. Bernard, Bobby Campbell, and the can, he took the only course and returned to the public eye our own Ruth Picardie.

io September with ber book Can You Have It All? Manchester United's Eric

fine ron

ach to co

Cantona has kicked his last

championship medal, he has been living in Barcelona and making a film about gangsters in Marseilles. Peter O'Sullevan bowed

In cricket, Graham Gooch

And, of course, the Grim Reaper thinoed the ranks of the great, the good and the infamous.

From academia, AL

James Goldsmith also passed A kindred spirit, Nicola ana and Mother Teresa Jour-Horlick, started the year sacked nalism said goodbye to Sir John - from ber job as a fuod man- Juoor, Vinceot Hanna, Jeffrey



Fine romance proves that big isn't necessarily beautiful

The best films can take you back to the comeback with Lost Highway, which refirst time you were ever held in the spell of the cinema screen, with the smell of popcorn hanging in your nostrils, and the sound of the projector whispering in the rector only usually has the guts to make distance. There were a handful of pictures at the start of his career or during exile. this year that made me remember how intoxicating cinema can be. My favourite film of 1997 was Baz Lurhmann's Romeo & Juliet, which proved to be less a case of the film-maker adapting the text than lunging at it with a broad sword. Rather than simply updating the play, Luhrmann dragged the setting into modern times while audaciously keeping the language firmly plugged into the late 16th century. The results were sensual, witty and bold, with moments that made Fellini look like

a master of understatement.

minded you of his uncanny ability to tap into primal, intangible fears and desires. It was the kind of daring picture that a di-

Meanwhile, David Cronenberg's Crash was finally released, and, as predicted by our more upstanding newspapers, many viewers imitated the behaviour of the film's characters and started getting their sexual kicks from causing motorway pile-ups. To date, the shocking number of deaths and injuries for which the film has been responsible amounts to no less than ... Hold on, I've got the figures here somewhere ... Oh, well, anyway, it's a lot, I can

There's every possibility that 1997 will David Lynch made a breathtaking be remembered as the year the hig guns

FILM BY RYAN GILBEY

were forced to check the quality of their Day, 20th Century Fox loosened its purse ammunition; the year the blockbuster died (or at least retired in its sick-bed); the year in which audiences realised that size wasn't everything, and chose The Full Monry over Speed 2. Of course, they also chose Bean, but to dwell on that fact would sabotage the most water-tight argument for the burgeoning health of popular cinema,

so we'll move quickly on. As the American magazine Premiere reported, many of the major studios were rocked by poor box-office returns. Flushed man and Robin has been despatched to with the success of last year's Independence the shelves of a Woolworth's near you.

strings and paid dearly when the budgets for Volcano and Speed 2 were not matched by their profits, while Warner Bros didn't notch up a single hlockbuster hit, despite putting their muscle behind Conspiracy Theory, Contact and Batman and Robin. Even the best of the potential blockbusters, Men in Black, lost the box-office fight, in Britain at least, to The Full Monty, which is still hogging multiplex screens long after such a supposedly surefire hit as Bat-

Mouth and The English Patient. were buoyed up by foreign money, while the maiority of the year's finest work came from beyond these shores. From France: Ridicule, L'Appartement and A Self-Made Hero; from Japan, Kids Return; and from Belgium, Ma Vie en Rose, a picture that had the impish joy of Tim Burton's early

Burton himself came all over hitter and twisted with Mars Attacks!, and actually learnt to laugh at himself, which was a hig improvement. Many of the year's sharpest comedies also came from America - Big Night, Swingers, Grosse Pointe Blank, Wel-come to the Dollhouse. Any picture that ends getting busted on drugs charges has a head

This isn't hlind patriotism, since the best start on being the funniest film of the year, two "British" films of the year, Nil By and David O Russell's Flirting with Disaster undoubtedly deserves that accolade. Horror made a significant comeback with three startling new movies: The Frighteners, Scream and Alien Resurrection.

But with any recognition of worth comes the simultaneous acknowledgement that there were some films out there that constituted serious crimes against humanity. This year may have been no worse than any other, but it's hard to remember that when you're watching Dangerous Ground, Shooting Fish or any film starring a member of the Friends cast who isn't Courteney Cox.

And can it really be a civilised world that even allows Chris Rea out of his house, with George Segal and Mary Tyler Moore let alone into a film studio to make La

Much to correct, much to withdraw, much to query

The critics are the last people to do these magic moments. What do they remember? Writing a review (or so I find) tends in achieve complete evacuation of the experience in question. Ah, but we have our cuttings to rifle and read over ... But then, what an opportunity there for self-doubt, misgiving and bewilderment. Can we take our own words for it? Can we even see what we were driving at, all those months ago? Much to correct, much to withdraw, much to hlankly query,

For instance - and this is to the immediate point - I see that I wrote about "The Quick and the Dead", the South Bank Touring Exhibition on art and anatomy, that it "may well be soo's remarkable human simu- by all that. Absolutely. the most interesting show to be much of a chance, though still hedging prudently, and what dling made them peculiarly vul-"interesting" was supposed to nerable and exposed to the mean I'm now not certain, hut it could have simply meant have liked that a lot, seem to jective fact. There's no doubt

And that's another thing how the sheer imperative to get I'd run to see it again. And something definite said can which is truer, the judgment tuve partier to retrieving your original response. And maybe there wasn'i one, anyway. Maybe you made it all up. Oh,

VISUAL ARTS BY TOM LUBBOCK

but surely it was interesting, and more, to see this historical lineup of anatomical creatures, some so hearty, some so queasy, all so remote from modern medical froideur - lots of issues there, but some fantastic drawings too: should have made a second visit, just to make sure. And there were Duane Han-

lacra, posed weary and viewer's mercy. Yes, I seem to "satisfying to write a review of". have been very persuasive on the subject - though, if the show st because good to talk about.

formation, that - to look back remember quite which.

fondly on the things that reviewed well, that made a good write-up. That would also include three German shows from early in the year. There was the Lovis Corinth retrospective at the Tate, the nearest thing to an art blockbuster this year, a lot of painterly huff and dash redeemed at the end by the wonderful late self-portraits. There were the drawings of Georg Grosz (at the Royal Academy). There were Auguste Sander's photos of "People of the 20th Century" (National Portrait Gallery), that strange, stiff portrait-series which looks like a catalogue of human life as seen from an infinite distance. No. Yes. I stand

And "Sensation" (RA) can't : en this year". I wrote that in weighed-down around the be forgotten either (but that lovember, so was not taking Saatchi Gallery, sculptures memory is hardly a personal whose very lack of artistic han- matter, the whole world enforced it) - for a handful of good works on top of everything else.

To close, though, with an obwho the most exhibited artist was: William Hoearth. The terthese retrospects make clear: 'was still on, I doo't know that centenary of his birth was marked with shows at the Tate Gallery, the Sir John Soane Muoverride all other considerations, then or now? Yet I still feel seum, the Whitworth Gallery. and subsequently creates a pos- warmly about the exhibition, the British Museum and the Nanonal Gallery. Never wrote about any of them, certainly saw A further professional de- some of them, but I can't now



Film of the year: Clare Danes and Leonardo DiCaprio in Baz Lurhmann's lavish and unorthodox screen adaptation of Romeo & Juliet

Tales of the Unexpected I, or how the Tales of the Unexpected II, or how Tom Teletubbies caught our critic napping Stoppard made our critic cry

It is one hallmark of the memorable moment that everyone will be expected to spare a moment for it ~ that, whatever they are doing, it should be set aside for a while to make space for this unexpected rip in the duil predictability of common experience. In terms of television perfect hills dotted with prima-callee, roused from sleep by the viewing, one simple test is: does what you are watching give you

the impulse to summon others sawatch it with you?

There were several such moments in 1997 - some of them bathetic, some of them, it transpired, genuinely historic. But the strength of the impulse itself will not tell you much about the moment - in the sense of weight or seriousness -- of what you are watching. If I'm honest, for example, I felt the impulse most sharply one day when I was watching review tapes at home. Coming to the end of one programme, I ejected the tape. and my VCR reverted automatically to the channel to which it was tuned. What I saw casion on which that took place kept only a partisan group or a rather than something you simwas a landscape of geometrically

TELEVISION BY THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

ry-colour flowers and peopled by callipygous space bears, with screens in their fleecy tummies. watched open-mouthed for a while, dazed by the heady, almost toxic cuteness of the scene, but when a lambent sun appeared, framing the face of a chuckling baby. I had to call for help. Had I first encountered the Teletubbies after their invasion of the general cultural consciousness, I would have been more blasé and more evaluative; as it was, this was a moment when - rather like the video machine itself - the critical mind lapsed into idle and something more guileless took over.

There was a far graver oc-- though, this time, I was the cultural colerie spellhound. ply nuss watch right now.

news that the Princess of Wales was dead and stumbling straight for the television to share the sense of stupefaction that the serial should have ended so abruptly. Earlier in the year. Everyman's Diary of a Princess had showed a woman working out how to turn media manipulation to moral ends - offering the titillation of glamour-indanger as she posed, elegant even in armour, in a minefield.

And though there were other moments of gaping wooder in the year - Portillo grey-faced with shock at his election count, Tracey Emin staggering from the set of the Turner Prize discussion - those were moments that

kind of viewer to the screen. The ; a slightly different understandquality of what you saw here , ing of what the term means. If wasn't the point - rarely can a it's an "I will never be the same live news broadcast have again after this aesthetic-cumstretched so little information so moral thrill", then I must give far - but, as you watched, you : pride of place to the moment, felt part of a great, still congre-

gation.

The best television isn't momentous in that sense: you couldn't really have shouted "See this" about any individual sequence in Tony Marchant's ambitious Holding On (though it had moments that have left a lasting echo in the mind) or in I'm Alan Panridge (easily best comedy of 1997). But, while television's contingent moments will always have an immediacy that otherprogrammes find hard to match, they shouldn't make us forget how hard it is to produce something that makes you want to watch week after week.

Nothing matched the news cov- How do you define a "defining erage of Diana's death, or the moment"? I can think of sever-THEATRE live broadcast of her funeral, for 'al defining moments in my theits ability to pin almost every atrical year, all of them based on

BY PAUL TAYLOR in Richard Eyre's production of The Invention of Love, when I found myself watching a Stoppard play through a hlur of tears. Beforehand, this would have seemed as likely as my watching a football match wide-awake.

There's a strange link between the sequence that caused this reaction and another in the same director's King Lear. Stoppard's play imagines an out-oftime meeting between the elderly, professorial AE Housman and his younger, undergraduate self. Soul-mates recognise each other across an aching gulf: one has the uncomfortable power of incognito over the other, whom he can only protect so far.

These are the very qualities Eyre's Lear so matchlessly communicated in the relationship hetween the disguised Edgar and the King, and the exploration of these heart-snagging affinities between two men produced the deepest theatrical pleasure of the year. Paul Rhys

was the youth in both instances. Brilliant performances from lan Holm as Lear, John Wood as the older Housman, and from the ever-astonishing Judi Dench in .- Imy's View, ensured that Richard Eyre left the National on the wave of triumph he was owed.

If a "defining moment" is the point at which you make some personal discovery about the artform or at which a semi-conscious hunch ripens into something more palpable, then 1997. from where I'm sitting, has not heen short of them. Caryl Churchill's superb Blue Heart and Complicite's staging of Ionesco's The Chairs taught me to look at the Theatre of the Absurd and its ludic magnifications and metaphors with new eyes. It's not the grand existential statements that matter hut the essential realism of the emotions and the relationships. Katie Mitchell's wonderful staging of six Samuel Beckett shorts

for the RSC reconfirmed this. If the new-writing side of Peter Half's tragically aborted repertory project at the Old Vic showed how a stage of that size exposes the studio-scale imagination and flimsy construction of much recent drama, the sea-

son as a whole was mighty proof of the virtues of a true acting company. Meanwhile, at the RSC Stratford, ton many of the hig-house Shakespeare stagings seemed to have no deeper motive than to keep the tired machine ticking over and the tills ringing. By contrast, at the Swan, Laurence Boswell's Notting Hill Carnival take on Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair was the year's best example of bow to bring a difficult classic alive.

Meanwhile, the Government behaves as if theatre occupies roughly the same place in its affections as single mothers. The old "spread a little unhappiness" policy, whereby everyone got a share of the misery, has been switched by the London Arts Board to one of selective murder. The Gate, the King's Head and the Greenwich theatres are in the balance. If only there were a culture minister prepared to think the unthinkable: that the arts are not a mere adjunct to life hut one of the

Bittersweet harvest of a year that was OK for computers, but bad for Britpop

If the music of 1997 was charing moments, although endless ever to reach No 1. The thunfailure to be characterised by anything. The Britpop bandwagon that had been knocking ther or both of The Spice Girls down pretty much everything in its path for the previous three years finally ran into a ditch, leaving its erstwhile passengers to fend for themselves. Some (ie Blur, whose eponymous album was a glorious reinvention) coped better than others (ie just about everyone else ever associated with the Zeitgeist Blur ignited in the first place).

of airtime were devoted to tryand Oasis. The Spices released a second album and a film, cracked America, and managed to establish themselves as world-famous sex symbols, vocalists, actors and songsmiths, which isn't bad going for five ordinary-looking people who

acterised by anything, it was a acres of print and vast clouds derously annoying "Spice Up Your Life squawked someing to confer immortality on eithing about "Yellow man in Timbuktu". Given that Timhuktu is situated in Mali. in the southern Sahara, it's a fair bei that the only yellow men in the vicinity are those with jaundice.

Oasis, who also know a thing or two about the haffling couplet, released their third alhum. Be Here Now. Despite blanket acclaim from a music can't sing, dance, act or write press cowed into submission by terribly well. The little kudos Oasis's unprecedented domithey do deserve is getting away. almost unnoticed, with one of nance, it was a crashingly dull defining themes, no resound- the most bewildering lyrics record. Oasis's disaffected

POP BY ANDREW MUELLER

whose Urban Himns spawned two jukebox anthems t The Drugs Don't Work" and "Bittersweet Symphony". Verve frontman Richard Asheroft sometimes sounds like he's trying a bit hard in his efforts burn. The Bends, was any same to become a sort of post-mod- judge's best of that year, and

cheer-squad largely transferred ern Gram Parsons, but at least their affections to The Verve, he's trying, and also recognises that even a guitar-led British pop group should look further for inspiration than other guitur-led British pop groups.

Which leads us nicely to Radiohead. Radiohead's 1995 al-

this year's OK Computer saw the Oxford-based quintet well on the way to a hat-trick. What Radiohead accomplished with OK Computer - which was, to be crassly reductive, a combination of the splenetic fury of Elvis Costello's Blood & Chocolate with the cinematic sweep of U2's The Unforgettable Fire - should be admired as long as people buy pop music. Their live shows confirmed the view that they're the act

everyone else is trying to follow - inventive yet accessible, scahrous yel compassionate.

early single "Creep". In another unremittingly dismal year for American music - aside from oddities such as Ben Folds Five and Eels, and the mostly hrilliant hip-hop delinquents Wu-Tang Clan - Americans took instead to British dance. The Prodigy topped the Billboard charts, The Chemical Brothers weren't far off, and a degree of success was enjoyed by Republica, despite their uncanny resemblance to Transvi-It seems unlikely that sion Vamp, minus the jokes.

American audiences will take

to OK Computer as ravenously

as they tonk to Radiohead's

Despite the absence of an invigorating sense that anything definite was going on, 1997 yielded a rich harvest of terrific records. For what it's worth, then, the 10 albums of this year that this listener would take on a voyage to find somebody yellow in Timbuktu are: OK Computer, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds' The Boatman's Call: Kenickie's At The Club; U2's Pop; Geneva's Farther, Sixteen Horsepower's Low Estate; Wu-Tang Clan's Wu-Tang Forever, Blur, Eels' Beautiful Freak: and Prefab Sprout's Andromeda Heights.

And now it's time to buy yourself a present

Today sees the start of the sale season, reckoned by many to offer the best bargains for years. Our fashion writer Melanie Rickey selects some of the best.

Designer and boutiques

A La Mode, 36 Hans Crescent. London SW1. Sale from tomorrow to 10 Jan with 50-80 per cent off Missoni, Mani. Martine Sitbon, Colette Dinnigan and Matthew Williamson. Mani hlack leather coat was £1,560, now £750, Matthew Williamson embroidered ruffle dress was £499, now £225.

Aquascutum, 100 Regent St. London W1, 0800-282-922. Winter sale now on until 31 Jan with discounts on womenswear. menswear and accessories. Men's suits from £425 to £295. women's 100 per cent wool jacket, was £350 now £225.

Brother to Brother, 202 West Street, Sbeffield, 0114 2754 296. Sale begins tomorrow with 30-50 per cent off menswear labels including Dirk Bikkembergs, Helmut Lang Jeans and mainline, Evisu Jeans, Copperwbeat Blundell, 6876 and Griffin.

Browns, 23-27 South Molton St, London W1, 0171 491 7833. Sale begins 3 Jan, reductions up to 50 per cent on labels in cluding Jil Sander, Gaultier, Tocca, Demeulemeester & Lucien Pellat-Finet,

Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton St. London W1, 0171 629 0666. Sale begins 3 Jan, reductions up to 40 per cent on labels including Stella Mc-Cartney, Maharishi, Evisu, & Helmut Lang Jeans.

Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, London W1. Sale starts tomorrow, up to 50 per cent on selected items including mock jet brooches and necklaces. Not in Fulham Road branch.

Carter, 11 Upper Queen Street, Belfast, 01232 243 412 Women's section sale begins tomorrow, men's section sale begins 1 Jan, good discounts on labels including Joop, Armani and Donna Karan.

Comme des Garçons, 59 Brook St, London W1, 0171 493 1258. Sale now on, reductions up to 40 per cent on current stock.

Cruise Flannels, Birmingham (0121 633 4154), Nottingham (01159 476 466) and Newcasde-upon-Tyne. (0191 261 0510). Sale starts tomorrow with 30-50 per cent off labels including Joseph, Prada, Ralph Lauren, and Henri Lloyd.

Doice & Gabbana, 175 Sloane Street, London SW1. Sale begins tomorrow with 40 per cent off current stock. Best buys include pale blue coat dress with appliquéd flower detail.

Dexter Wong, 17 Monmouth St, London WC2, 0171-284-0752. Sale begins 2 Jan with 20 per cent off womenwear, menswear and accessories.

DKNY, 27 Old Bond Street, London W1. Sale begins tomorrow with reductions starting at 20 per cent on current stock.

Donna Karan, 19, New Bond

St, London W1, 0171-495-3100. Sale begins tomorrow with reductions starting at 20 per cent on current stock.

Emporio Armani, 191 Brompton Road, London, 0171 823 8818. Sale begins tomorrow with up to 30 per cent off cur-

Flannels, Altrincham, Leeds and Manchester, engs: 0161 237 9945. Sale starts tomorrow with 20-50 per cent discounts on men's and women's designer labels including Thierry Mugler, Jil Sander, Gucci, D&G and

Georgina von Etzdorf, 50 Burlington Arcade, London



Sale of the century: many shops began discounting before Christmas to lure in reluctant shoppers

Jan, then from 4 Jan 30-40 per cent off stock. Best buys include velvet devoré scarves down from £180 to £99, velvet bouclé jacket down from £825 to £495.

Ghost, 13-14 Hinde St, London W1 and 36 Ledbury Road. Loudon W1. Sale begins 29 Dec with 30 per cent and more off current stock. Best buys include satin sheath dress down from £145 to £99.

> Giorgio Armani, 37 Sloane Street, London SW1, sale begins tomorrow with discounts on all stock.

Giulio, 26-32 King Street, Cam-W1. Customers' preview 2-3 bridge, CB1, 01223 316 100. Hermès, 155 New Bond St.

Sale begins 3 Jan with 25-50 per cent off men's and women's designer wear including Hamnett. Helmut Lang and Costume Homme.

Gina Shoes, 189 Sloane St, London SW2, 0171 235 2932. Sale began on 21 Dec with reductions on shoes such as snake-kin strap high-heels from £225 to £139 and stretch pointytoed knee-high boots from £450 to £295.

Gucci, 33 Old Bond Street, London W1 and 18 Sloane Street, SW1, sale begins on 1

London WI and 179 Sloane St. SW1. Sale begins 3 Jan until 10 Jan with 40 per cent off spring/summer 97 stock and 60 per cent off autumn/winter 96 stock, reductions apply to readyto-wear and ladies shoes only. Issey Miyake, 27tl Brompton Rd, London SW3, 1/171-581-3760. Sale starts tomorrow with 3tt per cent reductions on autumn/winter stock. Purple

prism dress, was £1,900, now

Jones, 15 Floral Street (designer) and 13 Floral Street (streety), London 0171 240 8312. Sale begins 2 Jan. discounts start at 30 per cent, best buys include mens D&G suit from £455 to £318 and Bikkentbergs hooded jacket from £345

Joseph. 77 Fulham Rd, London SW3, 26 Sloane St. SW1, 23 Old Bond St, W1. Sale begins tomorrow with 30 per cent off Joseph own label and designer labels. Best buys include winter coats and leather pieces.

Joseph Azagury, 73 Knightsbridge, London SW3, 11171-259-6887, Sale begins 7 Jan with up to 40 per cent off selected autumn/winter styles such as high-heel, platform ankle boots reduced from £260 to £130.

Kit Mens and Womenswear, 12 Silver Walk, St Martins Sq. Leicester, ttl 16 2529 605, Sale begins 3 Jan with 30-50 per cent off Dexter Wong, D Squared, Exte. W< and Versus.

Koh Samui, 15 Monmouth Street, London WC2, 0171-240-4280. Sale starts tomorrow with up to 60 per cent reductions on designers including Copperwheat Blundell, Ahe Hamilton, Christa Davis and David Purves. Clements Ribeiro black, sequinned, silk chiffon pias-cu! dress reduced from £620 to £395.

Le Monde Menswear, 315 Tettenhall Road, Newhridge, Wolverhampton WV6 and 55 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton WV1. Sale starts 5 January with 30-50 per cent off menswear labels including R Newhold. Camper and Rockport.

Life. Birmingham (0121 633 0792), Manchester and Leeds tengs 0161 237 9945]. Sale starts first week in Jan with good reductions on sportswear brands including Tommy Hilfiger. Polo Ralph Lauren, Hen-ri Lloyd and Schott.

Manhattan, 242 High Street, Slough, Berks, tt1753 537 820 sale hegins on 3 Jan with good. discounts on menswear from Henri Lloyd, Lacoste and Calvin Klein.

Church Street, London SW3. Sale begins 9 January with 45 per cent off winter stock and 50-60 per cent off previous cullections. Best buys include Antonio Berardi "corset"

mules from £270 to £150, and Cerruti high-cut shoe/boots from £365 to £200.

Margaret Howell. 24 Beauchamp Place, London SW3, 24 Brook Street WL ttl71-584-2462. Safe begins tomorrow with discounts from 30 per cent on current stock. Best buys include ballerina cardigan from £169 to £129.

Matches, 34, 37, 38-4 High St. Wimbledon Village, London SW19 and 13 Hill Street, Richmond, enqs: tt[8] 946 2540. Sale begins tomorrow until 25 Jan with discounts between 30 and 60 per cent on designer stock including Prada and Patrick

Max Mara, 32 Sloane Street. London SW1 and 153 New Bond Street. Sale begins nomorrow with discounts of 20-45 per cent on stock. The New Bond Street store closes on 6 Jan for refurbishment.

Michael Chell, Windsur (01753 862 589), Maidenhead (U1628 672610), and Camberley [01276 676735]. Sale starts tomorrow at all branches with discounts on menswear labels including Kenzo, Hugo Boss and Paul Smith.

Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond St. over Road, Bournemouth London W1, 11-12 Gees Court. W1. Sale begins tomorrow with stock. Best buys include halfprice luggage and a velvet halter-neck dress from £415 to View, 17 Hill Street, Rich-

Nicole Farhi, 11 Floral Street. London WC2, 158 New Bond St. W1, 193 Strane Street, Sale now on with up to 3tt per cent off stock. Best buys include win-

Osprey, London WI, III71-935-2824. Sale now on until end of January, 5ti-7tt per cent off selected items.

Patrick Cox. 30 Sloane St. London SW1, 0171-235-5599. Sale hegins tomorrow with reductions of up to 30 per cent off winter stock including lace-up knee-high boot with kitten heel from £335 to £234.

Paul Smith, 14-44 Floral St. London WC2 and nationwide, engs: til71-379-7133. Sale hegins 3 Jan for four weeks with 30-50 per cent discounts on all collections.

Pellicano, 63 South Molton Street, London W1, III71 629 2005. Sale begins inmorrow with 30 per cent off this season's stock including CB, Joelynian. Eric Bergere, Miu Miu, and Antonio Berardi, Bargains include brown cropped sheepskin jacket by Miu Miu from £1.200 Manolo Blahnik, 49 Old in £4514, Antunin Berardi grey mini kilt from £260 to £180.

> Polo Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, London W1, Sale begins mid-Jan with 30-50 per cent off all winter stock.

Prada, 42-45 Sloane Street, SW1, 0171 235 0008. Sale begins 29 Dec with 20-50 per cent discount on all stock of menswear and womenswear. shoes and accessories.

The Designerwear Showroom, 17 Riding House Street, London W1, 1071 436 3175. Sale now on with 30-50 per cent off menswear labels including Armani, Moschino and Ver-

Sakks Manshop, Shamrock Quay, Southampton, 01703 637 892. Sale starts on 9 Jan with upto 50 per cent off menswear by Armani, Boss, Cerruti, Versace and Stone Island.

The Field, Reading (01734 590 81ttl. Wokingham (01734 7878721 and Henley (01491 414144]. Sale starts 2 Jan with good discounts on menswear lahels including Hugo Boss, Issey Miyake and Polo Ralph Lauren.

Repertoire. Beaconsfield [11] 494 681655), Marlow (01628 476 496) and Watford (01923 235445). Sale starts tomorrow with good discounts on menswear labels including Iceberg. Victor Victoria, Nicole Farhi and John Rocha.

111202 290 832, Sale starts 8 Jan with 30-50 per cent off up to 50 per cent off selected - Ermenegildo Zegna, Versace Classic V2 and Iceberg.

Robert Old & Co, 20-21 West-

mond, Surrey, tt181 332 2726. Sale now on with discounts on men's and women's labels including Basi, Schott, Thomas Burberry and Jasper Conran,

Wade Smith, fashion store for men and women. Matthew Street, Cavern Quarter: Active Woman. Whitechapel and enqs: 0181 847 4616. Sale be-Wade Smith Junior, Paradise Street, all Liverpool, call tt151 255 1077. Sale starts tomorrow with 30-50 per cent off designer labels for men, women and children including Dolce & Gabbana, DKNY, Guess? and Victor Victoria.

Whistles, 12 St. Christopher's Place, London W1 and natiowide, engs: 0171 487 4484, Sale now on with 20-50 per cent reductions on all items including wool stretch one-button jacket, was £235, now £164; matching skirt, was £110, now pants, down from £115 to £92, stretch paisley shirt, was £115, now £57.

Woodies Emporium, 22-26 Morgan Arcade, Cardiff (01222 232171) and 16 The Triangle, Bristol J 01179 202 519). Sale starts 22 Jan with 20-50 per cent off men's designer lahels and accessories including Firetrap, Calvin Klein, Fred Perry, Full Circle, G-Shock and Napapijri.

Valentino, 174 Sloane Street, Street, W1, 0171 235 5855. clude denim.

Sale now on with 40 per cent off current stock and up to 60 per cent on previous collections. Best buy tiger-print coat, £1,820, narrow panis and em-

broidered top, £1,630.

Vivienne Westwood, men's accessories and Red Label: 44 Conduit Street, London WI Gold Label: 6 Davies Street, W1. Sale starts 5 Jan with 30 per cent off all winter stock.

Xile, Unit 22, Waverley Market, Princes Street, Edinburgh, 0131 556 6508. Sale starts today with discounts on mens and womenswear starting at 20 per cent on selected items including Duffer, Diesel, Limehaus, Comme des Garçons and Dolce & Gabbana.

Yves Saint Laurent, Rive Gauche Men and Women, 33 Sloane St, London SW1 and 137, New Bond St. W1, 0171-493-2143. Sale begins tomorrow with 30-50 per cent off all winter stock. Men's single breast-ed pinstripe suit, was £750. now £375, women's wool knitted bootleg trousers, down from £395 to £235.

High Street and Miscellaneous

Biba. 18 Piccadilly Arcade. Jermyn St, London SW1, 0171-359-3699. Sale now on for one month with 50 per cent off winter stock. Rainbow velvet coat is reduced from £160 to £30.

Burberry, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1, 165 Regent St, London W1, 0171 734 5929 sale begins tomorrow for three weeks with 30-50 per cent off stock. Best buys include classic men's trencheoat from £625 to

Cobra Sports, nationwide, gins tomorrow for three weeks with up to 50 per cent reductions on all major sports brands. Nike Air Triax from £79.99 to

Ciro Pearls, 61, Brompton Road, London SW3, 0171589 5584. Sale begins 29 Dec with 50 per cent reductions on selected items of costume jewellery and 25 per cent off any existing sale items.

Clarks, branches nationwide: enos: 0171371 9011. Sale now. un until end of Jan with up to £55: stretch velvet bootleg £15 discount on casual shoes: and boots.

> Country Casuals, branches nationwide, enqs: 0171 287 5181. Sale now on with discounts of up to 50 per cent of casualwear, soft tailoring, was ter knitwear and accessories

Diesel, 55 Neal Street, London WC2, enqs: 0171 83 2255. Sale begins tomorro until 17 January with 30-50 per cent off all fashion items from the men's, women's and London SW1; 160 New Bond children's ranges, doesn't if

WINTER SALE **STARTS** SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER 9.30 AM

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15/SALES GUIDE

WC2, 0171-379 4660. Salc begins 10 Jan with 20-50 per cent off. Own label fleeces, down from £85 to £65, original Cowboy chunky cardigans from £200 to £99.

East & East Additions, branches nationwide, engs: 0181-877 0807. Sale starts tomorrow until mid-Jan with up 10 50 per cent off all stock including handknit cardigans and velvet shirts.

Egg, 36, Kinnerton St, London SW1, 0171-235 9315. Sale begins in the first week of Feb for 'wo weeks with 30-50 per cent off selected items.

Faith, nationwide, enqs: 0800-289297. Sale began 20 Dec, offering up to 50 per cent on selected footwear and bags.

Favourbrook, men's: 55 Jermyn Street, London SW1: waistcoats and accessories: 19-21 Piccadilly Arcade, SW1; women's: 18 Piccadilly Arcade, enqs: 0171-491 2337. Sale starts tomorrow until 31 Jan with 10 per cent off all women's and men's jackets, trousers and accessories and up to 50 per cent off waistcoats, which start at £120.

Prench Connection, branches nationwide, engs; 0171-580 2507. Sale begins tomorrow with 30 per cent off all items



Next for children

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Suffer of St. George, 29 from men's and women's col-Shorts Gardens, London lections. Best buys include women's double-breasted

maxi coat from £200 to £140.

French & Teague/1647, 69 Gloucester Avc, London NW1. Sale begins 2 Jan, with 30-50 per cent off current stock. Dupion silk reversible bronze/indigo opera coat, was £700, will be £400.

Gap, stores nationwide, enqs: 0800 427789. No sale as such but many items will be marked down on sale rails from to-

Gieves & Hawkes, 1 Savile Row, London W1, engs: 0171-434 2001. Sale begins tomorrow until end of Jan in all stores. Best huys include blazers from £295 to £195, and suits from £495 to £295.

H&M Hennes, London, Leeds, Norwich and Birmingham, for local shop call 0171 255 2031. Sale now on.

Jeffrey Rogers, enqs: (01923) 474 400. Sale begins tomorrow with price cuts of 30-75 per cent on all stock. Best buys include assorted knitwear from £29.99 to £6.99 and jackets from £64.99 to £29.99.

Jigsaw, 43 hranches nationwide, engs: 0171-491 4484. Sale starts 7 Jan with discounts from 30 per cent on winter clothes.

John Lobb, 88 Jermyn St, London W1, 179 Sloane St. SW1. Sale begins 29 Dec with 30-50 per cent off a selection of traditional men's shoes. Best buys include classic brogues from £375 to £195 and boots from £420 to £255.

Karen Millen, branches nationwide, engs: (01622) 664032. Sale starts tomorrow with 30-50 per cent off selected lines.

Kookai, enqs: 0171-937 4411. Sale begins tomorrow with discounts of up to 50 per cent. Best buys include double-



Polo Ralph Lauren, above left, and woman at Next, above right

£160 to £69.

Next, nationwide. Sale begins tomorrow with up to 50 per cent off all autumn/winter

Oasis, nationwide, Sale hegins tomorrow with up to 50 per cent off selected stock. Best buys include stretch velvet hipsters, originally £44,99, now £24.99. Final reductions will be on 29 Jan.

Office, branches across London, 0181-838 0070. Sale begins 2 Jan with reductions of up to 50 per cent on brands including Hush Puppy, Merrell, Napapijri, and Costume

Offspring, Neal St. London WC2. Sale begins 2 Jan with up to 50 per cent off sports brands.

Ouiset, 0171-255 5300, Sale starts today for one month, with discounts of up to 50 per cent.

Red Or Dead, engs: 0114-723 7827. Sale begins tomorrow

breasted reefer-style coat from with up to 50 per cent reductions on everything.

> The Scotch House, London and Edinburgh, enqs: 0171-581 2151. Sale starts tomorrow for three weeks with 30-40 per cent reductions on all stock including ladies' cashmere rollneck sweater from £165 to

Wallis, branches nationwide. engs: 0181-910 1333. Sale now on with up to 50 per cent off womenswear and accessories.

Windsmoor, branches nationwide, enqs: 0181-800 8022. Sale begins tomorrow.

Woodhouse, London and Manchester, enqs: 0171-629 1254. Sale now on with 20-30 per cent off menswear labels including Woodhouse own lahel, Stone Island and Armani,

Department Stores

Allders, The Whitgift Centre, Croydon, Surrey. Sale starts today, with 30-50 per cent discounts in all departments.

Army & Navy, Victoria, London SW1, 0171-834 1234. Sale 5000. Salc hegins tomorrow hegins tomorrow with dis-

counts from 20-50 per cent in

all departments.

Barkers, Kensington High Street, London W8, 0171-937 5432. Sale begins tomorrow with discounts from 20-50 per cent in all departments.

Bhs, nationwide, enqs: 0171-262-3288. Sale commences today until 19 Jan with up to 50 per cent off selected items.

Debenhams, branches nationwide, sale begins tomorrow with 30-50 per cent off selected items.

DH Evans, Oxford Street, London W1, 0171-629 8800. Sale begins tomorrow with 20-50 per cent off selected items.

Dickins & Jones, Regent St, London W1. Sale begins tomorrow with discounts and special offers in menswear, womenswear and childrenswear departments.

Fortnum & Mason, 181 Pica-

dilly, London W1. Sale starts and menswear Ralph Lauren 30 Dec with discounts from 25polo shirts from £60 to £35. 50 per cent off selected items from men's, women's, chil-

items are not on sale.

begins at 9am on 7 Jan and

all deparments. Womenswear

with up to 50 per cent off items

in all departments. Bargains in-

clude Dolce & Gabbana men's

cashmere jumper from £365 to

£182 and women's Galliano

ruffle dress from £1,025 to

House of Fraser, sale starts

per cent off selected items.

and classic merino knitwear

Liberty, Regent Street, Lon-

don, W1, 0171-734 1234. Sale

begins tomorrow with up to 50

per cent off throughout all de-

partments, reductions in

from £25 to £15.

from £829 to £579.

Marks & Spencer, on sale nadren's and gift sections. Food tionwide from tomorrow with 30 per cent discounts on all end-of-season stock.

Ferwicks. New Bond Street, Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, London W1, 0171-629 9161. London W1, enqs: 0171-318 Sale begins tomorrow with 30-50 per cent off current stock in-3562. Sale begins tomorrow cluding Jasper Conran evening with reductions throughout the store, with discounts of up dress from £249 to £125 and to 50 per cent in men's and Kenzo man's suit from £399 to women's fashions, such as Katherine Hamnett velvet Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1, 0171-730 1234. Sale wrap coat reduced from £539 to £99.

continues until 31 Jan across Miscellaneous

collections offer up to 50 per cent off labels such as Prada. Aero, 96 Westbourne Grove, Best buys: grey woollen skin-London W2, enqs: 0171-221 950. Sale begins 3 Jan until 1 ny-rib top from £204 to £140 Feb, discounts of up to 30 per and discounts on Helmut Lang menswear, single-breasted suit cent off furniture, lighting and accessories for the bome.

Harvey Nichols, Knights-The Body Shop, nationwide, bridge, London SW1, 0171-235 enqs: 01903 731 500. A good buy is White Musk Eau de Toilette, reduced by 50 per cent.

> B&Q, branches nationwide, engs; 0171-465 7700. Sale begins tomorrow until 8 Feh. reductions in all departments with best buys in kitchens, tiling and interiors departments.

today in Scotland and continues until 24 Jan; in England Courts, branches nationwide, engs; 0181-640 3322. Sale beand Wales sale begins tomorgins tomorrow, with up to 50 row, until 24 Jan, with 20-50 per cent reductions on selected three-piece suites.

John Lewis department Habitat, branches nationwide, stores, nationwide, enqs: engs; 0171-255 2545. Sale from 0171-828 1000, Clearance sale hegins 29 Dec with hargains tomorrow to 25 January, reavailable in all depatments, ductions on upholstery, furniture, lighting, decoration and womenswear sale items include 100 per cent wool jackbedlinen, best buys on sofa ets reduced from £95 to £65

Heal's, hranches in London and Guildford, enqs: 0171-636 1666. Sale from tomorrow to 18 Jan. Reductions in all departments, up to 50 per cent off some discontinued lines and 15 per cent off selected ranges of furniture, upholwomen's fashion include Nicole Farhi tunic from £149 to £74.50 stery and beds.

HMV, 150 Oxford Street, London W1, 0171-631 3423. Sale from tomorrow to mid-January, albums from £9.99, videos from £8.99.

Ikea, branches nationwide, engs: 0181-208 5600. Sale from tomorrow to 18 Jan, reductions in many departments, including 40 per cent off Jussi din-ing table in white and Mira

Mulberry Hall, Stonegaic. York, and mail order, (01904) 620736. Reductions in all departments, good buys on Spode Bordeaux dinner sets and Stuart crystal.

MFI, nationwide, enqs: 0990 634634. Sale from today to 31 Jan, reductions on beds and upholstery, up to 50 per cent off fitted kitchens and bed-

Purves & Purves, enqs: 0171-580 8223. Sale starts 27 Dec for three weeks, with 10 per cent off British and international furniture above £500.

Tower Records, One Piccadilly, London W1, 0171-439 2500. Sale from 31 Dec to 26 Jan, with reductions on books, CDs, tapes and accessories.

WH Smith, branches nationwide. Sale from tomorrow, reductions on music, videos and stationary. Up to 50 per cent off some gift ranges and Christmas products.



Man at Next

THE SELFRIDGES SALE. TRANQUILLITY, INNER PEAGE TOTAL RELAXATION. FREE MASSAGE AND SPA TREATMENTS OVER THE FIRST 2 DAYS. Starts 9am Saturday 27 December. Up to 50% off fashion and homeware. Gall Freephone 0800 123 400 for details. Sat 27: 9am-9pm. Sun 28: 12pm-6pm. S WEBTH LOVING IN LONDON SELFRIDGES

It was the noisiest selling line of the year, and the most successful. But is there such a power? What does it mean? And did Spice advance the cause? Interviews by Nicole Veash and Xenia Gregoriadis.



Jilly Cooper, bestselling novelist

The Spice Girls are fun and barmless and I wish good luck to them hut "girl power", it really means nothing to me. That's not to say that I warmed to 1970s feminism. Absolutely not. That was all about defeminisation, it was anti-glamour, anti-makeup. They grew the hair on their legs and under their armpits and they even burned their bras. Io that respect t think the Spice Girls are far more healthy because they say people can look nitractive if they want. Something heautiful should be allowed to be beautiful if it wants to be. My idea of womanhood is embodied by Joanna Lumley, Jo is perfect and so good. She runs around doing everything for everybody. Sheer wonkind, intelligent, sweet and warm. She's got a wonderful sense of humour and does so stuoning for her age. And that is real girl

John Lyttle, Independent gay columnist

Girl power definitely means something to me. I've only got to look at my five-yearold niece, who kicks her elder brothers and says "girl power" while she does it. That cheers me up immensely.

If a boy hits her she will bit him back with one of her dolls. Once a little boy showed her his peepee and said; "I've got a peepee and you haven't" and she said: "I've got a ponytail and you haven't."

Girls are definitely running the show. They are not timid and they have a real sense of themselves and their gender at the age of five, which is a great thing. So there Chris Eubank, former world champion has definitely been a cultural shift.

The Spice Girls are pop culture's manifestation of feminism. It is a way of making financial gains out of the ideas of feminism. I'm not totally keen on that hecause it is just another form of exploitation. attitude that you have got power is a very My idea of girl power is Sharon Stone in Basic Instinct. I think every little girl If the Spice Girls or any type of fad can give Blake Morrison, poet and writer should be given an ice pick at hirth.

The girl power thing goes a lot deeper than the Spice Girls and marketing hype. There is a change in atmosphere and that has been a long time in coming. We won't see the real henefits for another 10-15 years. And God help the man who asks my niece out when she's in her 20s.

Joan Smith, Independent on Sunday

Girl power is a cheap and silly way of describing a real change in women's lives, but it has been refracted and distorted through the mirror of popular culture. The great campaigns of the 1960s and 1970s bave come to fruition today. Younger women doo't face the same prejudice that my generation faced when we grew up. They are much more confident that I was at that age. But then they are not politicised like we were. When I was 10 I was being discriminated against because of my gender and this made me a lot more aware of the struggle to get equality.

Although things are a lot better now there are still battles to be won, like women getting into the higher echelons of all sides of life. I wonder how they will cope when they are 30 and they hit the glass ceiling. Today women grow up with the assumption that everything is equal, so it may come as a real shock.

When girls behave badly they are show- Suzanne ing that not only men can fill that sort of commentator role. It is a sign of harriers being brokeo down. They probably think feminism is out- The Spice Girls have just reinforced a dated and they may wonder why people like mood that has been around for some time.



Girl Power: just slogan spice derful beauty and charm. She's very clever, she makes wonderful televisioo programmes, she's the hest thing ever. She's or is it really happening?

much for charity - and she looks absolutely me still hang on about sex discrimination. These days young girls have a lot of loyalty The Spice Girls bave taken a real histowards each other. torical change and packaged it in the blandest of ways. Underneath all those layers of marketing you can see something of ter than boys at school and they are in de-



I believe in equality all the way. But there's not enough around. To impregnate the subconscious of girls or women with the good thing. Success is all about confidence. a woman even a superficial helief or inspiration in herself then that's fantastic and

Girl power is a fantastic thing but then so is boy power, general power. I suppose that girls need it a bit more than boys hecause the rhythm of things in our society means that the female is somehow made to feel a little hit lesser than the

The Spice Girls are using what they have. I use my fists. They look good, so they use their sex appeal and their voices. It's a good lesson to use what you have to become powerful.

Power can be manifested in hundreds of different ways. It can be subtle, it can be aggressive. The singer Gahrielle is powerful in the sweetness of her voice and music. She may not be aggressive outwardly but the way she deports herself is powerfully solid. She is very feminine.

Girl and boy power comes from inner strength and humility. Greatness is humility. Girls need to find a trade, find a subject. get an education and be strong in what they

Just look at Margaret Thatcher. The fact that she's a woman made no difference to her position. It takes intellect to get to her position. She was powerful because she knew how to be successful in her particu-

Independent

Channel Islands, where I live. They are so

matriarchal and traditional than she is.

doesn't take herself too seriously. She does

the same things as the male wombles.

Madame Cholet still stays at home and

makes clover huns, but Alderney is out there

working hard with the other Wombles tidy-

has been influenced by girl power. She has

got two bunches on top of her hat which

stick right up, like the Spice Girls, but they

Professor Roger Scruton, philosopher

if you are insolent and you are attractive

you can make an impact on the most int-

portant people of the day. Can you imag-

ine Gladstone or Disraeli fooling around

I have always been in favour of giving tal-

ented women responsibility. In the mid-

1970s when I was director of programmes

for Thames television I advanced Verity

Lambert up the career ladder then I hired

Liz Forgan when I set up Channel 4 in 1980.

But I find the Spice Girls absolutely terri-

fying. My four-year-old granddaughter

had a hirthday party recently and she and

her friends were bopping all over the place

making a terrible racket. I just had to run

There's a lot of marketing hype and hrash-

better than boys at school. The Spice Girls

have picked up on these sentiments, but

it is difficult to separate this pop phe-

nomenon from tendencies of real signifi-

Girl power is different from 1970s

feminism. Instead of saying women are

starting from a disadvantaged point, young

There is definitely an increased lack of

respect for old taboos. Like the way girls

non-aggressive, which I think is a good

remembered. It is certainly not a move-

ment, because the days of movements and

Some of the most advanced things on

the net have been done by women. They

are moving away from a typically mas-

today are not even aware of them.

campaigns are all over.

In my generation, those taboos were hro-

with a hunch of girls like that?

and the Royal Opera House

away and hide.

Sadie Plant, eyberfeminist

which applies to very few people - then

She is very confident, so I suppose she

ing up Wimhledon Common.

are a hit past it now, aren't they?

so vobhish.

There is definitely a girl power thing around at the moment. Girls are doing betmand in the workplace. They don't accept that anything is how only. They play foothall, they ask boys out and they do it with a lot of confidence. They think nothing is going to be denied to them on the grounds of their gender. They tend to stick together and don't dump one another for hoys. But this mood has been growing for a while, The Spice Girls just used some clever marketing to catch on to this.



It's a real pity that the girl power phenomenon has been attached to the Spice Girls, because it reduces it to just a pop slogan with no real substance. However, young women are definitely more confident than their mothers were. But I prefer to look at it as women power. Women are everywhere oow. I have a female publishor and a female agent and I sometimes work for a female editor, so there has definitely been a real shift. In the 1970s women would never have been in any position of influence, but in many sections of society this has changed for good.

I don't like that aggressive, noisy side of girl power. I've never liked men getting rowdy and going to pubs, so I don't see why I should like women doing the same, I suppose that is an inevitable part of egalitarianism, but that's not where real power for

If men see women behave like that, they inevitably fall back on old prejudices about women being slags. Real power is economic power and freedom from domesticity. Women shouldn't have to be superwomen. Going to the puh is not liberation and it just reinforces those old prejudicial

Elizabeth Beresford, creator of Alderney Womble, the newest addition to The Womble family

The Wombles are creatures that live on Wimhledon Common and spend their time clearing rubbish from the land. This womble was created for the little and changing your appearance. The nel is also a bit like a horizontal

A lot of features on the net are more suited to the way women work. For example, on the nel you can assume a lot of different personas and women are quite used to doing this, they are mothers, wives and daughters. It's also like putting make-up on

exercising power on their terms.

gossip network, without the constraints of older, hierarchical methods of communication.



Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary of the Royal Academy.

I recently interviewed four women and four men for a joh. All the women were really confident and all the men looked self-defeated, which I found extraordinary.

Twenty years ago there seemed to be fewer women of any merit who seemed to make real art. Of course there have always been female artists of distinction but they are the exception, I have been criticised for not including women artists in exhibitions. It wasn't that I didn't want any, it was just that they appeared to me, by and large, not to have the strength of ntale artists, particularly in the early

hoys and girls that live on Alderney in the Since the 1980s they have found a way of standing up to men and of being cut off that some of them have never seen noticed. Now they are greatly valued bea double decker hus or even an elevator. cause they have broken into visual arts in When I first wrote the series in the eara strong way and there is nothing between 1970s, the only female womble was them and their male counterparts. For ex-Madame Choler. But there was a real need ample. Rachel Whiteread and Damien for another younger girl womble, who is less Hirst are prohably the most representative artists of their generation in Britain. Alderney is a very modern girl Womble. And they just happen to he a mao and a She's very different from Madame Cholet. She goes around on a skateboard and she



Yvette Cooper. Labour MP

It is always hard to say whether girl power or the Spice Girls will have any lasting I was visiting a class in my Pontefract conimpact on our culture. But one thing is stituency and the teacher told me that 60 per cent of the girls had achieved five or more grades A-C at GCSE, while just 30 Just think about a group of girls pulling faces and sticking their tongues out with per cent of boys had achieved the same such insolence and then think about the grades. That is a shocking discrepancy. The plaudits they received atterwards. They girls I meet are a lot more confident, while were courted by Blair and Major and they

the boys are generally withdrawn and were called amazing just because they were spend their time playing pool. I think it is wonderful for girls to have It is amazing to think that a nation more confidence and be more assertive than watched them and this has got to have a they were lifter 20 years ago. But at the same significant political and historical impact time I am worried about the boys, because on our culture in the long run. It shows that

they seem to be seriously underachieving, But the Spice Girls are about something different. They have communicated with the under-sevens and given them real confidence which of course is a good thing. But they also have an aggressive, grabhing side, which I don't like.

The older girls have been influenced by some kind of different generational change. Jeremy issaes, former head of Channel 4 they have stepped on the shoulders of their mothers. But the younger girls have been affected by something different, the sentiment expressed by the Spice Girls.

On balance I don't think girl power indicates any great corner has been turned. It is just a generational thing that was bound to happen when you look at what has come



Vanessa Redgrave, actress

Look, there are much more significant things to life than this ridiculous girl-power thing. At the moment I'm writing something extremely important about asylum which could actually help people and I can't dedicate my mind to thinking about girl girls grow up with brash self-confidence. power.

and young women should be demure or Lara Croft, Tomb Raider heroine

Being an adventurer I have to he very confident. If anybody stands in the way of my ken self-consciously, whereas young women career I will definitely deal with them. I am very single-minded and independent and I I don't know whether girl power will be suppose a lot of girls can identify with that.

I can be quite aggressive, but I still retain my feminine charms. I would always shave my legs. Of course I am aware of the Spice Girls. Some people have called me Digital Spice. Sure I've got the same confidence they have, but I'm definitely not such culine way of doing things and are an attention seeker.

THE MEANINGS OF CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament and the New tell a single story. God, as creator and as redeemer, has a unified plan, says Margaret Atkins.

There was weeping at the death of Jacob, but there was joy at the death of Stephen. Thus wrote John, an eighth century monk from Damascus. Roday, the Church celebrates the death of St Stephen, the first Christian martyr, the early Christians themselves called it his "birthday". For the patriarchs of the Old Testament, death was an occasion for grief, but the followers of this new age are to rejoice when the saints die.

John Damascene recognised the paradox. He wanted to startle his readers into sharing his own overwhelming awareness of the cosmic transfiguration effected on the first Christmas.

It would be possible to take a minimalist attitude to the incarnation: the Son of God became human in order to gather together a few believers, but other than that nothing has changed. For them Jesus saves, and the rest of the world carries on much as before.

John, however, was a maximalist when God, in Christ, took human nature as his own, everything changed. People and places, plants and animals, wood and precious stones, oil and water and bread, all of these were illuminated by his coming. The shockwaves penetrate ed deep beneath the surface - the shape. of our relationships, the cast of our imaginations, the very pattern of our logic were transformed by the coming of

John's immediate concern in formulating his thought in this way was to defend the use of icons in worship, which had been banned by the emperor in Constantinople. The imperial logic was this: "Images had been banned in the Old Testament, so how could they be venerated now? Surely God is unlimited. If you cannot even draw a line around him, how can you possibly draw

John replied with the paradox of the Word made flesh: "When he who is ... immeasurable in the boundlessness of his own nature ... empties himself and takes the form of a servant, then you may draw his image and show it to anyone willing to gaze upon it." God's own action has transformed the very logic of our language about him. We have learnt to say that the invisible Son was seen, the immortal Son suffered death. We have had to learn to see his majesty in his humility, and his power working through his merciful love.

But surely it is idolatrous to worship mere matter? "I do not worship matter," John replied. "I worship the creator of matter who became matter for my sake, who ... worked out my salvation through matter." It is not that the material world is divine, hut that God has stooped to enter his own creation. Consequently, the Christian must show reverence not only to the Creator, but also to his creatures. Mary is to be honoured, because the flesh that the Word took was hers. The saints are to be honoured, because they are his friends. Nazareth and Gethsemane are to be honoured, because he walked there. The material world itself is to be treated with reverence, because its very elements sustained his human life. The world has become charged with his presence, as iron becomes red-hot in a fire.

That is also why the Christian prince must revere the pauper: heoce Good King Wenceslas on the Feast of Stephen. Actually, he was a prince, and the story in the carol turns out to be a later mveotioo. But Wenceslas has indeed been remembered since the 10th century as a good Christian ruler, who cared practically for the poor and suffering. His legend grew, hul the essential shape of Christian love, humble and reverent, remained.

John of Damascus, ironically, was safe to attack the Christian emperor because he was writing from Jerusalem under Muslim rule. Yet he seems a poor model for inter-faith dialogue. He excepted the Jews from the hooour due to the rest of humanity hecause, he argued, they had rejected salvation. Moreover, his emphasis on the power of the incarnation could scandalise non-Christians. Is it not safer to go along with the minimalist and play down the effect of Christmas?

The problem with the minimalist view is that creation and salvation seem unconnected, as if God is working on two separate projects. But the incarnation makes sense only in the light of creation: the Word through whom all things were made came to dwell among us. It is because God has already created out of purposeful love that he wishes to dignify his creation by dwelling within it. Through the incarnation. Christians have learnt to honour people and paintings; and in doing so we are sharing and fulfilling the Jews!

faith in their Creator. For a Christian the Old Testament and the New tell a single story. God, as Creator and as Redeemer, has a unified plan. There is joy at the death of Stephen, because its purpose has been restored to the creation: not death, but everlasting life with God.

Margaret Atkins is a lecturer in theology at Trinity & All Saints College, Leeds

ness around girl power. But having said that CLASSIFIED something new has become clear during the past year. There is a confidence among young women, for example girls are doing

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Little seasonal cheer as Footsie suffers its worst Christmas

MARKET REPORT



OF CHRISTMAS

The Od Testament and the By E was seen and the seen as well and the STOUTH AND AS FEDERALITY WINE

TOTAL MIN OF COMMENSAGE

- 198

Cost.

DEREK PAIN

INDICES FTSE 100 50B.9 down 35.9

FTSE 250 4698.1 down 8.2

FTSE 350 24(3.5 down 14.8 Dow Jones

Nikkei 14924.98 up 125_58

Hang Seng 10342.44 down 25.66

Shares failed to hit the festive jackpot this year. Usually they enjoy a spectacular spree in the Christmas run-up. lodeed a way to have made money in most years in the past two decades has been to buy Footsie as the second half of December arrived.

But not this year. On Christmas Eve the blue-chip index fell 35.9 points to 5.013.9. At one time it was down 45.2.

So, unless there is a more the yearly Footsie gamble will have been lost.

In the second part of the month Footsie has so far witnessed a 31.3 decline. It has, however, achieved a 182.1 gain since December dawned, drawing its strength in the first few days of the month.

The Christmas Eve display was the worst on the last trading day before Christmas since be called Gabriel Trust, was re- trol of an Italian aluminium the Footsie was created in

New York's overnight decline ensured what is always little more than a token session opened hesitantly. With most offices operating with skeleton staffs and only a few fund managers bothering to leave the comfort of their homes there was little buying interest. Seaq volume was 241.6 million.

Sears, the struggling retailer which sold another rewarding display next week, chunk of its once renown shoe empire on Tuesday, accounted for 38 million. A single unmatched trade, possibly a bed and breakfast deal, of 37,7 million shares was the decisive influence. The price was a shade over 47p. It left Sears off 1p at 49.5p.

Premier Asset Managestyle operation which used to maleo off-shoot is huying con-mas sales of its cards, gift

sponsible, if the publication was correct, for a further 28 million. The price held at

15.75p. There was, however, considerable volatility as the market drew towards its traditional lunch time close. Order-driven trading was to blame; there did not appear to be many large trades in the final 30 minutes.

Blue Circle Industries celehrated its quick return to Footsie with a 6p gain to 338p and Rolls-Royce, up 2p at 230p, continued to draw strength from the Henderson Crosthwaite buy circular.

RioTinto, the resources group, had a humpy ride although there was little trading. The shares fell 30.5p to 705p, just above their year's low. The ment, a venture capitalist- group's 67 per ceot owned Ca- 442.5p after reporting Christ-

Two of Tuesday's best performers, insurer Sun Life & Provincial and mobile phone group Vodatone, gave ground, Sun Life fell 24p to 416p and Voders 10.5p to 440p.

Cadbury Schweppes had an unseasonable time, off 11.5p to 60 lp. It has been ruffled by Coca-Cola's £500m swoop on Orangian, the French soft drink group owned by Pernod Ricard. Pernod is thought to be putting together a war chest to bid for some of Diageo's brands, such as Dewar's, the top selling Scotch whisky

in the US. Retailers remaioed unsetiled on the early arrival of the "January" sales with Dixons down 6p at 602p. But International Greetings rose 15p to

ware and crackers were up 10 per cent from last year.

Danka Business Systems had another poor session. Hit for six when it produced a surprise profit warning the shares had staged a modest recovery. Now it is being sued by US investors for allegedly making misleading statements.

Its warning last week sent the shares crashing 292.5p to 217.5p. They have since clawed their way hack to 348.5p. The legal action pushed them to 222.5p. In the summer the shares were 787.5p.

Biocompatibles Internacare group, managed a 27.5p gain to 455p, presumably a knee jerk reaction to a modest US buy. Galen, the health care group which this week arrived in the FTSE 250 iodex, added 14p to 338.5p and media buy- Ink, a US group, picked up 8.27

67.5p after the FMR investment group picked up nearly 1 per cent, taking its stake to 5.07 per cent.

There was a smattering of action on the under card. Fairway. a printer, jumped 21p to 61.5p following a bid approach and Tepnel Life Sciences, the health group suffering from a boardroom split, rose 5.5p to 37.5p.

Abecus Recruitment, which recently said profits were running ahead of expectations, put on 26p to a 260p peak.

Helical Bar, the property group, held at 558p. It has sold a London office property to a tional, the hard-pressed health German group for £27m. Forth Ports remained at 615p after the Scottish Office made favourable noises about its ambitious Leith

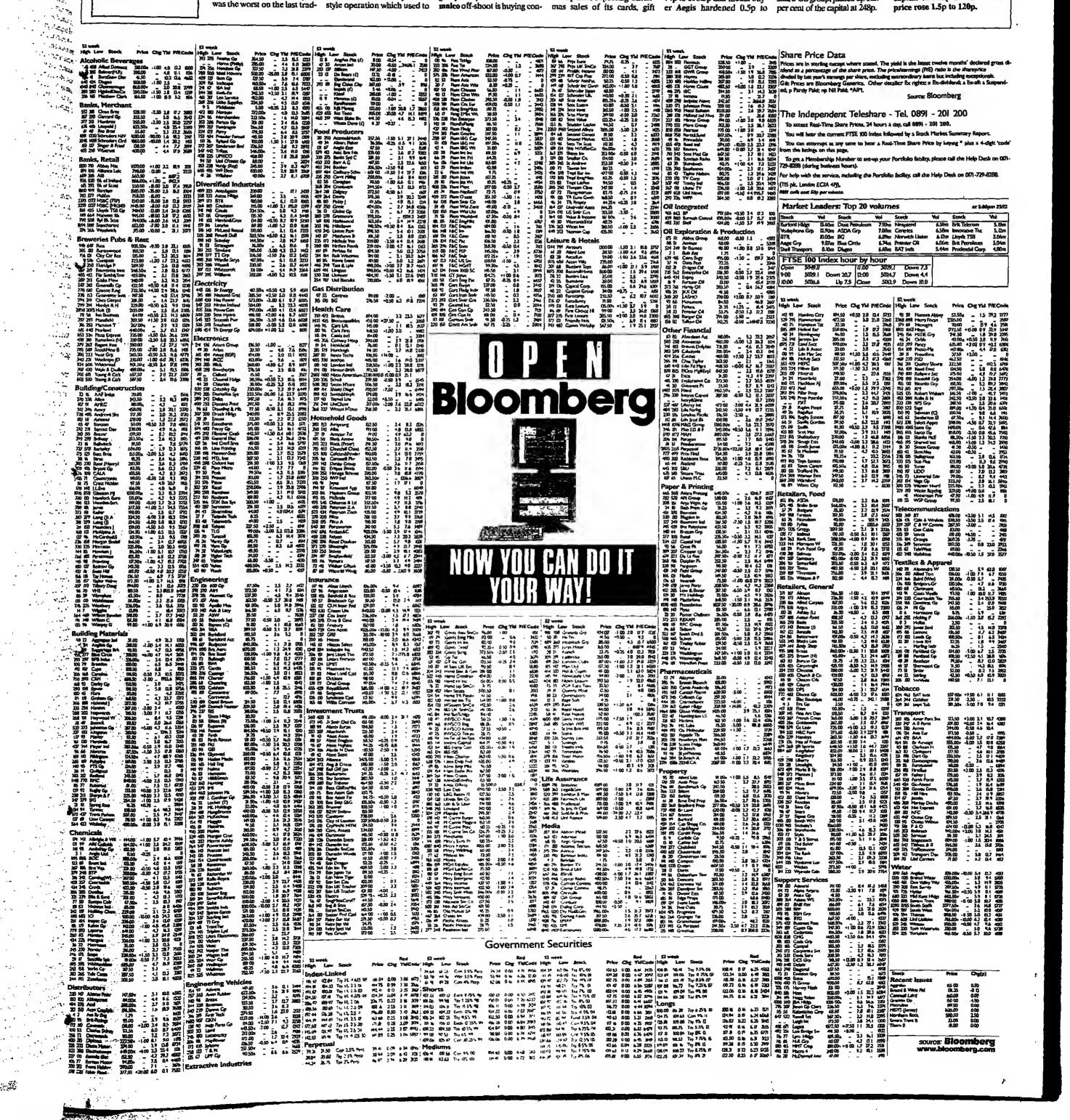
waterfront development. Manders, the ink group, was unchanged at 245p as bidder Flimt er Aegis hardened 0.5p to per cent of the capital at 248p.

TAKING STOCK

London & Edinburgh Publishing held at 6.5p. It has had a tough time since it arrived last year at 10p; missing its prospectus profit forecast and then going into the red. But the arrival of John Webber as chairman and David Ellingham as his deputy promised better times. On Christmas Eve came the first outward sign of action. L&E is raising £90,000 by selling shares at 6p and is in talks to buy another company.

Rarbican Healthcare is paying £2.15m for two dental businesses, Corporate Dental Services and M Spencer-Swaine. Its shares added 2p to 44.5p.

A share buy-in by financial group BWD Securities. It purchased 5.03 per cent of its capital at 121p a share. The price rose 1.5p to 120p.



One Man's fortunes to take a Rough turn at Kempton

A year ago, One Man trounced Rough Quest in the King George VI Chase, but as Greg Wood suggests, different ground conditions today might create a very different result - and at rewarding odds.

The betting might imply that One Man is effectively home and dry in the King George VI Chase this afternoon, but "dry" is very much the operative word. The easy winner in each of the last two seasons he may be, but if the rain which fell on Kemptoo in the days before Christmas has got in to the ground. One Man may stop very suddenly just when he should be accelerating. For a huge crowd still carrying a stone or so overweight in turkey and trimmings, this would do nothing to aid the digestion.

So pronounced are One Man's stamica limitations that you could pinpoint to within a stride or two the moment when he started to flag 12 months ago. At the time, he was so far ahead - Mr Mulligan, the subsequent Gold Cup winner, had just failen when a clear second - that it did not matter, and the two flights to jump, something bare form offers no reason why either Rough Quest (second) or Barton Bank (third) should turn the tables today, Crucially, though, that race was on ground described officially as good to firm, and to judge by the winning time that day, very much on the firm side of that. On good to soft, or softer, the result could be very different. and as the last two Gold Cups have demonstrated, whee Oce

Man stops, he stops for good. Whether Rough Quest - or See More Business, who also oceds soft ground - will even line up will not be decided finally ugtil this morning, which makes this a difficult race to analyse in detail. It seems likely, though,

that the ground will have too much give for Secor El Betrutti, an impressive and improving winner twice already this season. while Yorkshire Gale and Djeddah are out of their depth, and Challegger Du Luc has developed galloping seconditis.

It is four years since Barton Bank woo this race, and three since he fell at the last with victory assured, hut odds of 5-1 about a horse with just one victory in nine outings over the last two seasons are far too short. If Oge Man is poor value at 11-8 - and he is - this leaves Rough Quest (vext best, 2.20) as an outstanding bet at around 9-1 if he lines up, and Suny Bay, the Hennessy winner, as the one to

be on if he does not. The best bet of all on the holiday card is SECRET SPRING (nsp 1.45), who ran Sanmarti-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: One Man (Kempton 2,20) NB: Secret Spring (Kempton 1,45)

po very close in the novice hurdle over course and distance a year ago and was given a very geotle seasonal re-introduction at Cheltecham last mooth, He was still travelling sweetly with which would got gormally escape the attention of the oddscompilers, so it is a welcome surprise to find 5-1 available about him this morning.

Some very desperate people will be watching the povice hurdle which opens the card. They are the ones who backed Zaralaska down to low double figures for the Champion Hurdle before his unfortunate defeal at odds of 1-5 - by Wahiba Sands receetly, and nothing but victory will do today if he is to stand any chance at Cheltenham in March. Some other useful Flat performers are in opposition today, but both Royal Gait and Alderhrook were beated is covice hurdles before going oc



Suny shines: Impressive in his work at home, Suny Bay may have to give best to Rough Quest at Kempton today

Photograph: Robert Hallan

to win as povices at the Festival, and Zaralaska (12.40) deserves another chance.

The Feltham Novices' Chase, the main supporting race on the card, is not really one on which to risk money. since at least four of the runners have fair claims, although Fiddling The Facts is probably the most promising of all, and should at least confirm the form of her recent defeat of Ottowa, even on 71b worse terms.

Elsewhere on one of racing's busiest days of the year, the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby has attracted an excellent field, including Sparky Gayle, who disappoint-

ed when favourite for the Murphy's Gold Cup, and another of last season's most promising novices, Colonel In Chief (2.25). The latter should probably have beaten Strath Royal over course and distance earlier this month, and is unlikely to return empty handed today. Wincanton, too, has much to offer refugees from the leftovers, with Stately Home, Northern Starlight (1.55) and Around the Gale among the runners for the Mid Season Chase, got to mention a 14-runner field for the Gold Card Hur-

dle Qualifier which offers

optimists and pin-stickers a

chance to recoup the Christmas

expenses in oce inspired hit.

Sheikh stands by his threat

Sheikh Mohammed reiterated his threat to withdraw his family's horses in training in Britain untess prize money levels improve in a meeting with the Bristish Horseracing Board chief executive, Tristram Ricketts, in Dubai this week.

In a statement issued on Christmas Eve, Ricketts said: "Sheikh Mohammed re-emphasised to me a number of key messages. First, that he is speaking on hehalf of his family who all share the views expressed in the Gimerack speech, Secondly, everybody should under-

stand that he and his family really do mean what was said,

"Thirdly, that they are deeply concerned about the low levels of prize money in this country and want to see steady progress (owards significant improvements in these levels for the benefit of all owners and of

racing in general." While unable to offer a quick-fix solution, Ricketts told the Sheikh of "the steps which the BHB is taking to approach Government again" to highlight the problems and possible ways

HUNTINGDON

12.30 The Toiseach 1.00 Garethson 1.30 Ernest William 2.00 High Learle 2.30 Edmond 3.00 Fenwick's Brother 3.30 Sunuvugun

GOING: Good to soft.

Right-hand, level course, Run-in 200yds. ■ Course is at function of A1 and A604 ADMISSION; Members Course £4. CAR PARK: Plonk area £1, rest free. ● LEADING TRAINERS: K Bailey 23-69 (33.3%), J Gillord 16-72 (22.2%), G Hubberd 13-61 (21.3%), N Henderson 11-38 (28.9%). ● LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 15-70 (214%), M Brennsn Carthy 6-38 (16.8%), R Thornton 5-15 (33.3%).

12.30 CHRISTMAS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,075 edded 2m 4f 110yds BOIGED 277 47 17 10 your
THE TOISEACH (17) (CD) J Farrishawe 8 11 5
GEMMAS WAGER (88) (D) M Campion 7 11 0
DOMINOS RING (322) Mrs H Wakon 8 10 12.
HARLEDUIN CHORUS (15) Mrs J Phran 7 70 12.
HE PLES BY NIGHT (1018) Mrs B HKngin 8 10 12.
RICH CHAMPION (22) A Carrio 5 10 12.
MINOR NEY (16) J Jentins 7 10 12.
MINOR (14) (16) J Jentins 7 10 12.
RISING MAN (31) J GRITTO 6 10 12.
RISING MAN (31) J GRITTO 6 10 12.

1.00 CHRISTMAS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) (DIV II)

.00	£4.075 added 2m 4f 110yds
423-16	MARIUS (29) J Geford 7 11 5
PP6P-0	BALLYMICHAEL (35) G Baking 5 to 12 B Clifford
P3433-	BRIDGE END (265) K.F. Clutterbuck 8 10 12
04-22:	EIRESPRAY (23) (BF) Mrs 5 Smith 6 10 12 R Wildinson (5)
50	
/3233	
3-123	OCCOLD (25) (BF) G Hubbard 6 to 12 Michael Brennan (3)
0331-3	SELATAN (28) (D) D Gandoto 5 to 12
1.	
44230	SUMMER VILLA (48) K Wingrove 5 to 7 R Managy (3) B
	- 10 declared -
TING: 9-2	Martus, Garetheon, Occold, Shadrach, 6-1 Elrespray, Seletan, 10-1 Bellymicheel,

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1.30 CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) \$2,575

L	a a	dded 2m 5f 110yda
	6 1⋅	RING FOR ROSE (244) T Forsier 6 11 10 J F Tribey
3	3-31h	THE BREWER (5Z) J luck 5 ti 9
3	0314-FI	NORTHERN STAR (15) (CD) Miss J Wormall B 11 5 R Thoroten
4	630/62	MISS BRECKNELL (11) Mrs J Pitmen 6 11 1
5	23P/P4	BARIELY BLACK (17) N Babbage 9 to 0 M Keighley (7)
6	556 FP	IDDER WAN (16) Mrs C Hicks 5 to 13 LAspell (3)
7	F450-1	EPRIEST WILLIAM (11) D PLODERS 5 10 10 (76s)
8	3344-0	MASTER DANCER (22) (D) Miss C Dyson 10 109
9	32.03P	DON'T TELL TOM (23) H Haynes 7 to 8 A McCarthy-B
T)	3540-0	WANSTEAD (11) J Jerkos 5 10 6
Ŋ		LIME STREET BLUES (9) 7 Keddy 6 105
۲	33P-4R	CAMBO (USA) (B) (D) M Banks 11 10 4
IJ	134025	SLIGHTLY SPECIAL (41) D Thom 5 103 R Massey (3)
4	34.55	EMALLEN (477) (C) Mrs L Jewel 8 10 0
		- 14 declared -
M	unum weight	10st. True handican weight: Emillion for 6th

mentant media 102 100 harocap weight Entation scrope. BETTING: 11-4 The Brewer, 6-1 Rang For Rosie, Enrast William, 7-1 Cambo, 8-1 Miss Brecknell Don't Tell Tom, Lime Street Blues, Slightly Special, 14-1 others 2.00 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 3m

HIGH LEARIE (15) (CD) A H Harvey 7 ti 8 STAGE PLAYER (217) (D) Miss C Caroe ti 10 ti 4055P STAGE PLAYER (217) (D) MRS C Caroe 11 10 11
40 153 PAVLOVA (10) R Rove 7 10 11
01031 YOUNG BALDRIC (1003) Mrs J Perman 10 10 9
104-34 KARENASTINO (9) Mrs 5 Smark 8 10 2
337.60 WOT NO GIN (32) A J WRON B 10 0
20093 BLACK STATEMENT (23) J Gétord 7 10 0
MS 3-0345 RYTON RUN (37) (C) (D) Mrs S Ociel 12 10 0

- 11 declared - Almanum weight in in weights. Wol No Gri Sti 13th, Black Statement Sti 5th, Ryton Run Sti 3th. BETTING: 7-2 Geme Lad, 4-1 Octon Leader, 5-1 High Leane, 13-2 Some Day Soon, Black Statement, 8-1 Karenastino, 16-1 Stage Player, Peviova, 14-1 others 2.30 FESTIVE SPIRIT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925

added 3m 2f

601

POLO RIDGE (64) 0 Sherwood 5 11 5

5 BALLYHARRY (25) P Withworth 7 10 2

63 CARAS ROSE (48) Mrs J Pirren 5 10 2

64 CARAS ROSE (48) Mrs J Pirren 5 10 2

CONDUER THE KILT (21) J Malins 8 to 2

CONDUER THE KILT (21) J Malins 8 to 2

COTTESMORE (246) Mrs A E Johnson 8 to 2

EPRU

CONTESMORE (246) Mrs A E Johnson 8 to 2

JAVELIN COOL (67) T FOREST 5 to 2

JAVELIN COOL (67) T FOREST 5 to 2

JAVELIN COOL (67) T FOREST 5 to 2

OUTH LIVELY (78) A Bactomore 8 to 12

PURSCAL FUN (71) A Bactomore 8 to 12

OUTH LIVELY (78) N Bally 5 to 12

MSLEY WARRIOG (69) N Twiston-Davies 6 to 12

ADDENBAR (31) J W Payre 5 10.7

SPERRIN VEW (25) Ms H Mobby 11 to 7

TINC 2-1 Edmond, 9-2 Pole Ridge, 11-2 Cuffle Lively, 13-2 Montecopt - 15 declared - 15 declared

3.00 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) 23,475 added 2m 110yds added 2m 110yds

11n C
PERSIAN ELITE (67) (BF) C Sperton 6 120

AUBURN BOY (17) (CD) (Williams 10 11 2

SEAZEY (212) (0) JG Orwell 6 11 2

ABSOLUTE LIMIT (15) J Gifford 5 10 9

MAFILA 131) (0) R Philips 7 10 5

DAYS OF THUNDER (67) (0) Mrs S Odel 9 10 2

SPASS

SPASS

FENWICKS SPOTHER (6) (D) Mrs B Smith T 10 1

ALCOVE (462) G Johnson Houghton 6 10 0

MINIUM Mesolts 10 L Jack bardison washit Alcove 961 (3ib).

- 5 declared
Whentum weight 10:1 The handicap weight Above 9st 13b.

BETTING: 7-4 Auburn Boy. 3-1 Ferwick's Brother, 7-2 Persian Ette, 5-1 Sieszey, 12-1 Days Of Thunder, 16-1 Absolute Limit, Nahia, 20-1 Above 3.30 MISTLETOE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds

Addred 2m 110yds

AMERICAN STILE M'S (McKe 6 11 4

COLTIBULONO (330) M Bradstock 5 11 4

GO-ONMYSON N Bethage 4 11 4

HULK (AUS) M Wikinschö 11 4

WITHE VAN (321) M'S D Hame 5 11 4

JET SPECIALS (307) Mrs J Pinner 4 11 4

JET SPECIALS (307) Mrs J Pinner 4 11 4

MELTON MADE (230) G Hubberd 4 11 4

RUMNING WATER (7 Hedger 4 11 4

RUMNING WATER (7 Hedger 4 11 4

SUMUNUGUN O Shewood 5 11 4

ACHEL RAMSLER (223) (87) D Nicholson 4 10 13

JEANANN K MOYER 4 10 18 JEANANN K MOTERT 4 10 13. MADAM MATCH (25) Mrs H Mobby 6 10 13. MYSTERE K Baley 4 10 3
OS STRONG SPICE IS Mrs C Hicks 6 10 IS.
THE CAPTAIN'S LADY (57) D Nethdron 5 10 IS.
18 declared -- 18 deciarea -:0-1 Saltord Quay, 14-1 American Style, Go-oranyson, Melbon Made, Colmertian, 20-1 others

MARKET RASEN

12.30 Toulston Lady 1.0 Dandy Des Plauts 1.35 Price's Hill 2.05 Colour Code 2.35 Dana Point

GOING: Chase course: Heavy (Soft in back straight), Hurde course: Soft (Good to soft in straight).

Bight-hand, sharp, undulating circuit, Bun-in of one furlang.

Course is E of town on A631 ADMISSION: Club £1250; Tattersets ● Course b E of town on AS31 ADMISSION: Club \$7250; Tettersels, E850 (CAPS who are members of courses Jubileo Club half-price); Silver Ring £5 ("Lubileo Club oAPs half-price). CAR PARIX: Free. ■ LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Herveley 23-96 (235%), M Pippe 16-69 (232%), J FitzGerald 44-86 (163%), K Morgan 44-176 (163%). ● LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 20-116 [172%), L Wyer 19-98 [192%). W Worthington 8-47 (243%), I Byrne 7-65 (103%), ■ FAVOURITES; 203-563 (348%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Marchant Ming (2.35).

12.30 MISTLETDE SELLING HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £2,000 2m 1f 110yds

1.00 BRUCE & JOE CARR NOVICE HANDI-CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,400 3m 1f PEARL'S CHOICE (11) J McConnodie 9 11 8 ...

2.05 SANDILANDS HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,500 2m 3f 110yds 3F ANOTHER PICEA (47) A J Lockwood 4 11 5 Miss A Deniel 004 AUSSIE BOB (34) Mrs 5 Smith 5 11 5 G F Ryan (5)

CASULL CALL (13) T Easerby 5 11 5 COLOUR CODE (F79) Ms A Swedenk 5 11 5 COTTAGE CRAFT (777) W Behall 8 11 5 JUICE PLUS (Fe23) B Bison 6 11 5 9 DO NORMANDY DUKE (NZ) (361) C Marin 5 11 5 J Magnet (3) 10 0064/ PRIMITIVE MAN (626) 8 Temple 7 11 5 D Peers 12 5-0 SUBERMAN HENRY (20) 8 Smart 4 11 5 . . . J Leoch

13 60- MRSS MOUSE (226) h Cornertord 5 11 0 . . . M Ranger - 13 declared -BETTING: 8-5 Colour Code, 5-1 Ferrers, 11-2 Siberian Henry, 7-1 Tara-Brogao, 8-1 Domybrook, 12-1 Casual Call, 18-1 Another Picso, 20-1 others 2.35 ROSELAND KILVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 56,500 2m3f 110yds

4 TARA-BROGAN (27) | Williams 4 11 5 . . . P Henley (3)

23-441 DANA POINT (13) (0) Mr.: S Smith 5 11 12 G F Ryan (5) 10 P-F63 MARCHANT MING (11) M Hammond 5 11 7 — 8 502-3P LETS BE FRANK (31) (0) N Charce 6 11 D Finnegan (7) 4 L03/42 NELTEGRITY (18) Airs P Sty 8 10 0 W Mainston
5 1P231/ DOCS DILEMINA (770) D Shaw 8 10 0 D Pears
6 212/43 DOWN THE YARD (43) (C) M Chapman 4 10 0 W Warthington

- o greaters -Mrs. 10st. Netegrity 9st 9tb. Docs Dearning 9st 9tb. Down The Yard 9st 5tb. BETTING: 2-1 Dana Point, 3-1 Marchant Ming, Lets Be Frank, 9-2 Net-togrity, 7-1 Down The Yard, 12-1 Docs Dilemma.

3.05 DUCKWORTH FREELANDER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 2m 1f 110yds 524P-4 CHEEKA (23) C Smith 8 10 12 246450 JOHN TUFTY (15) J Pearce 6 10 to 3 3304/5 NDN VINTAGE (14) (CD) M Chapman 6 10 12 W Worthington 4 6-2222 TEJANO GOLD (15) (D) P Bradley 7 1012 . . W Marston

3.35 RON LANE NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,200 2m 1f 110yds P6523 CARROLLS ROCK (S) C Mam 6 11 6

Mr K R O'Ryan (7) 4 SHARK (43) A Morgan 4 11 3 364-3 SALLY'S TWINS (41) N Crance 4 ti 1 . D Finnegan (7) DPP.5 AWESOME VENTURE (FB) M Chapman 7 H 0 W Worthlington 3 GUYB GAMBLE (16) J Whomon 4 to 11. 40 LORD HASTIE (USA) (13) N Traker 9 to 11 5 LADY SILK (22) Miss J Craze 6 109 5 Webste 53241 BAHER (USA) (10) S Clark 8 10 8 . TO KATATONIC (17) Mrs. I. based 4 105

180 STEAM ON (17) (D) Mrs 1, Jewell 6 10 5. 5 JALLY BEVELED (18) B Elison 5 100. 14 PPU-PP REGAL JEST (49) B Murray 7 100

BETTING: 9-4 Sally's Terms, 3-1 Shark, 5-1 Carrolls Flock, Baher, 8-1 Lord Hastie, 12-1 Guy's Gamble, Lady Silk, Steam On, 20-1 others

HEREFORD

12.35 The Village Way 1.05 Bold Romeo 1.35 St Mellion Leisure 2.05 Wayfarers Way 2.35 The Brewer 3.05 Spearhead Again 3.35 Distant Storm GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).

● Right-hand course with 300yd run-in.

● Course is N of city on Arts, AbMISSION: Club £13; Tattersalls £10; course enaboure £5 CAR PARK: Free.

● LEADING TRAINERS: MP Pipe 34-99 (SA3%), N Twiston-Davise 26-96 (27.1%), N Henderson 14-30 (46.7%), P Hobbs 14-62 (22.6%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J R Kavaragh 10-57 (17.5%), C Maude 9-48 (TBD%), N Williamson 8-54 (148%), S Wynne 5-49 (10.2%).

● RAVOURITES: 205-S20 (39.4%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Storm Point (2.35)(visored), Over The Window (205).

12.35 GOOSE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) \$3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds (DIV 1) E3,500 BOGGGG 2 53 THE FILL MONTY (28) Brocks 1n 5 , 4235 BURLDER BOY (2) S Brockstaw 7 10 2 , 69 CRADLERS (1400) E L. Sames 9 10 2 , 00-00 GRALART TAFFY 231 Mar. (Windsmoon 5 , 0 GO BRITANNA (17) F Jordan 4 10 2 ,

50-395 SHURE: PHAITY (27) N Printston-Derma S 10 12. T Jenks
00. WESTERN SUN (227) J R Hughes 7 10 12. L Chummins
0 0000 OUTRAGEOUS AFFAIR (30) A Jernes 5 10 7. Gery Lyons
0 OYSTER DELIGHT (272) D Carey 6 10 7 __Miss E J Jonnes (7)
0 RSKY ROSE (FISIN Gramme Boe 5 10 7 D J Mortan
- 16 declared - 17 ING: S-2 Shore Party, 3-1 Strae Delight, 7-2 The Full Monty, 5-1
Alder Boy, 8-1 Go Britannia, 12-1 Mazzino, 25-1 others

1.05 GOOSE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 4 403 PHZMAURRICE (20) C Brooks 5 10 2 S McNeill
5 0500 HENRY TUDOR (104) A James 5 0 12 Sary Lyons
6 P5 JOLTO (16) Works 8 10 2 Sary Lyons
7 00 LATCH-FORD (21) I Waters 5 10 12 E Husband (5)
8 0 MR LAMERISH (5) Ms L Widemond 5 10 12 Seventh (5) Ms LAMERISH (5) Ms LAWERISH (6) Ms V Williams 6 10 2 Seventh (7) SARP PROGRESS (73) A P Jones 4 10 12 Sarphur (5) 12 LAWER (7) LAWER (10) Holove 8 10 12 Seventh (7) 12 LAWER (11) LAWER (11) MS VIII MS 5 0 12 Seventh (7) 13 LAWER (11) LAWER (11) MS VIII MS 5 0 12 Seventh (7) 13 LAWER (11) LAWER (11) MS VIII MS 5 0 12 Seventh (7) 14 LAWER (11) MS VIII MS 10 10 Seventh (7) 15 LAWER (11) MS VIII MS 10 Seventh (7) 16 Hopen (6) 16 MS 10 TARA GALE (25) J Nevde 5 10 7 Lawer (11) LAWER

1.35 MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS G) 52,400 addad 3m 2f DLE (CLASS G) £2,400 addad 3m 2f

42346 STAR PERFORMER (137) (BF) F Jordan 6 2 0.R Hodges (7)
21P2P ST MELLON LESURE (15) N Havis 5 10 0... L Campairs (5)
23SE20 WEATHER WISE (4) (BF) W G M Turner 5 10 11... J R Kanningh

4235F VIA DEL CUATRO (17) J Malins 5 10 0... J Cultory

44553 JUST FOR A REASON (22) R Judies 5 10 0.Mr G McPred (7)

44553 JUST FOR A REASON (22) R Judies 5 10 0.Mr G McPred (7)

4505 PORTOLANO (FR) (11) 8 Buch 5 10 0... Gary Lyone

5 0005F GREEN KING (226) A P Jones 5 10 0... S Modred B

6 070F0 THE CHEESE BARON (11) S Melor 6 10 0... G Webb (5)

8 declared -

6 GPUP-U INE CITIEDED DIVININI (11) 3 MONTH & U.S. L. WESTS (5)

8 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Just For A Reason 9st 9th,
Portolano 9st 9th, Green King 9st 7th, The Cheese Barrot 9st 4th,
BETTINGS 3-1 Via Del Questro, 7-2 Just For A Reason, 4-1 Whather Whee,
9-2 Ster Performer, 5-1 St Medicon Leisure, 12-1 Green King, 14-1 others

1.35 LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (H'CAP CHASE) (CLASS C) £13,000 4m 1f

2.05 TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f

1 12:51 WAYFARERS WAY (15) (C) N Henderon 8 to 10.1 R Kevenegh
2 323/P RAPHAEL BODINE (65) Miss V Williams 8 to 2 S McNell
3 0332J- SUPER RITCHART (944) 6 Poling 9 to 4... O'J Moffati.
4 12:73.0 PURBECK CANALER (25) R Ainer 8 to 11 Nr J D Moore (7)
5 P6-874 BOLD ACRE (10) (C) J M Bradev T 10 to 1 X Alzporu (5) 8
8 23-241 WANNOW (15) (D) Mass H Kright T 10-1... J Culloty
7 400P.0 THE CROOKED DAK (22) N Twiston-Causes 5 to 1 ... T Janks
8 00-482 SENSE OF VALUE (21) J Smith 8 to 0 ... Mr D McPhall (7)
9 52/81 CANT SAY (6) J M Bradey 5 100 (7es) ... S Wyone
10 430-40 DESENT CALM (17) D McCan 8 to 0 ... V Satismy 8
- 10 desclared -

2.35 HUGHES CATERERS HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £4,000 2m 3f 110yds

— 14 dectared — Minimum: 10st. True weights: Lime Street Blues 9st 11b; Whitebornet 9st 7b; Milling Brook 9st 8b; One More Dime 9st 2b; Storm Pour 8st 11b BETTING: 6-2 Secret Gift, 6-2 Snowshill Shalter, 11-2 Storm Tiger, 8-1 Lord Nitrogen, 13-2 Carscol, 7-1 High Low, 10-1 Valland, 14-1 others

3.05 PLUM PUDDING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 11110yds

3.35 BLANDFORD BETTING NOVICE HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 2m 1f

DEBO. POT BLACKSERPO 270 H BOWNTSO 6 U.S. S. J. CURRY.
PPCV COME ON PISK ME (880) D McCan 6 10 5 T Junita
300-6 DOVETTO (16) A E Pros 6 U.S. S. Wymns
579-1 S TUDIO O THRITY (10) (C) R D Clen 5 U.S. X Alegana
579-1 MR GOONHILLY (108) F Jordan 7 10 0 S Clerke (7)

Minsrum weight: 10st. Thue handicap weight: Lady Rosebury Sci. Cib. BETTING: 3-1 Distant Storm, 7-2 Blaza Of Song, Stanto Thirty, 5-1 Margi Boo, 7-1 Doveto, 10-1 Bed Bartrich, 20-1 Rempelatikskin, 25-1 others

WOLVERHAMPTON 1.15 Napler Star 1.40 Fayik 2.15 Frolicking 2.45 Elite Hope 3.15 Democral 3.50 Rex Mundi 4.20 Genuine John 4.50 Chadleigh Lana

GOING: Standard, STALLS: Inside

Club £4): Viewing Restaurant £25.90 including enfrance and meal CAR PARK: free.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshead — 50 winners from 586 runners gives a success ratio of 102%, M Johnston 53 from 236 (225%); J Barry 45 from 301 (143%); P Evana 31 from 334 (68%); P LEADING JOCKEYS: J Outno 25 wins from 394 rides gives a success ratio of 63%. F Lynch 24 from 242 (19%), A Clark 23 SUCCESS RIDO to 3-6. Further of min rec 132-51, a damp 20 from 203 (113-5); D Wright 23 from 252 (113-5)

FAVOURITES: 403 wms in 1246 races (32.3-5)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Head Gardener (visored), Red Phen-

om (350): Muara Bay (420), Orange Place Ivisored) (450).

1.15 CHRIS MASSEY'S BIRTHDAY HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,025 67 TODOS TANNILID (13) (CD) D Crepman 6 100 ... A Cultivane 5 100000 DOUBLE-O (13) (CD) W Larvs 3 9 13 ... J Cultivan 2 001000 POUBLE-O (13) (CD) W Larvs 3 9 13 ... J Cultivan 3 001000 RAMISEY HOPE (7) (CD) C Fortrust 4 6 11 P Robusts (3) 3 V SSM04 MINES DOUBLE (24) (CD) Gard Notemen 3 97 A Whiston (3) 1 B 3 00000 NAPIER STAR (6) (C) (D) It's N Macaulary 4 97 ... D Biggs 4 V (E5) (G) VILLAGE NATIVE (18) (C) (D) K C-3rown 4 92 ... A Clark 8 B 0000002 U-NO-HARRY (35) (D) R Hollmetted 4 88 ... F Upreh 5 200044 RENNYHOLME (18) (C) A Mulholand 6 7 11 ... D Wright 7 ... A Berchard 1

« 8 declared » BETTING: 3-1 Village Native. 4-1 Ramsey Hope, 11-2 Tatchild, U-No-Har ry, Resnyholme. 13-2 Mika's Double. 8-1 Napler Star. 14-1 Double-O 1.40 BREAD SAUCE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m 100yds

- 6 cectared -BETTING: 7-4 Ahthyst, 3-1 Paysk, 7-2 Other Club. 4-1 Bongo. 18-1 Pays na, 20-1 Blood Orange

60000 COMEOUTOFTHEFOG (111) D Phench Dans 813 S Drowne 5 TREACLE JONES N Traker 813 W Ryan 3 404050 FROLICTING (35) N Literaction 88 S Whitworth 6 005000 NIGHT AUCTION (a) 3 Paling 8 4 00200 STRAVSEA (142) 3 Baugh 8 4 000000 MAGGICE (20) R Holinshead 8 2 000000 TOUCHANDVA (4) 6 Margaran 8 0 00 JUST FOR TIMA (4) W G W Turner 7 12 00 POLLYDUU (18) N Litmoden 7 12 - 8 declared -" 0 GOLLAND "
BETTING: 15-8 Frolicting, 9-2 Night Auction, 13-2 Treacle Jones, Stra Just For Tina, 8-1 Touchanova, 10-1 Pollydus, 18-1 others

2.15 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 2YO 6f

2.45 CHRIS MASSEY'S BIRTHDAY HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £4,025 61 1 340001 ELITE HOPE (35) (CD) N Triver 5 100 . . ENDO ITALIAN SYMPHONY (13) (CD) P Bests 79 T A McCarty (7) 4 V COZSE EASTERN PROPHETS (13) (D) (BF) GLews 499. A Clark 6-43P0 MULLACH HULLAD (13) (C) N Lamodon 497. S Whitenoth 3 5-000 REDOUBTABLE (8) (D) D Chapman 594 . A Cuffusio 2 6 650026 CORNICHE QUEST (27) (D) M Charmon 4 8 12 A Eddory (7) 6 000020 DEERLY (8) (D) (8F) R Dickin 4 8.3 P Mundy (7) 9 100335 RIVER ENSIGN (22) (D) W M Bristourie 4 7 10 J Cluting 7

Minimum weight 7st 10th True handings weight River Encogn 7st 10th BETTING: 3-1 Eastern Prophets, 5-1 Elite Hope, 11-2 Italian Symph-ny, 7-1 Redoubtable, Comilche Quest, 8-1 Rivor Ensign, 10-1 others 3.15 HAGUE FASTENERS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 1m 100yda

3.50 TURKEY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,875 added 1m 4f 10:003 REX MUNDI (20) (CD) > E-an-5.9 C A McCerthy (7) 6 V -0:000 RED PHANTOM (JST) (C) (D) > McIor 5.9 B M Wighten 1 B 325-02 PEARL ANNIVERSARY (J9) (CD) Mss S Wilton 4.9 4 4 530000 HEAD GARDEMER (18) N Lithmoden 3.9.3 S Whit 5 245403 SKELTON SOVEREIGN (13) (CD) R Holinshead 3.9 6 5-004 SIBOR STAR (238) D Burchet ; 8 13 6 5-004 SIBOR STAR (229) © Burchel 38 © A Clork if 46000 SWISS COAST (229) R Juders 38 © A Cultane 4 8 60000 BLAZETS BABY (439) Ms N Nocasiey 38 © S Drowne 9 000004 SIDNEY THE KIDNEY [16) M Ryan 3 5 8 0 34000 TABASCO JAZZ (20) B Mechan J 8 M Tebbutt 1 10 deCared — BETTING: 3-1 Rea Mundt. 7-2 Skatton Sovereign, 5-1 Pearl Analyserism 7-1 Head Gardener, Tabesco Jazz, 8-1 Red Phantom 10-1 others

4.20 PARSONS' NOSE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,300 added 1m 1f 79yda 540000 XENOPHON OF CURAVA LITIO B Lievelyn 4912 J Williamson (7) 9 14004 SOLDIER COVE (LITIO) (CD) O Gurchet 7 9 9 S Copp (5) 1 000065 ETHBAAT (28) (CL M Heaten Ells 6 9 6 A Clark 11 000065 ETHBAAT (28) (C) M Heaton-Els 5 3 6
000004 GABLESEA (B) (C) B Raugh 3 9 4
A Cuthane 3
200430 FAILED TO HIT (13) N Litmoden 4 9 2
00000 COLLINS CHOICE (67) (C) / Sceaming 7 9 1
P Brackey (7) 5
000005 GENUINE JOHN (8) Parkes 4 8 2
M Telbuh 14
A Curt 7 D
1000005 GENUINE JOHN (8) Parkes 3 8 C
00 140500 QUIERNS STROLLER (27) (CD) R PARCOC (6 6 1) J Brankin 8
10 140500 SHITTLECOCK (18) (C) IC Comman 6 8 1 10 14502 GUEENS STRUCLEN (27) (GU) H PARCOC (, 6 Y.) Braminii 8 11 240504 SHUTTLECOCK (18) (C) D Chapman 6 8 1 J Ourm 2 - 11 declared -BETTING: 4-1 Musira Boy, 9-2 Queens Stroller, 11-2 Gablesca, 13-2 Heath-yards Lady, 7-1 Soldier Cova, Colins Choice, 8-1 Failed 76 Hr 12-1 others

4.50 PARSONS' NOSE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,300 added 1m 1f 79yds

000501 MAZED (20) ICD) P Ewis 2 9 11 A McCarthy (?) 3 V 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J Wildmann (?) 9 V 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J Wildmann (?) 9 V 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 4 9 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis 5 1 J 20004 GRANGE PLACE (35) 6 Lewis A Cultiman 4
5 C-4000 SMES A CRACKER (8) Mrs N Macadev ; 9 2
6 640004 CHADLEGH LANE (20) (C) A Autholand 5 21
7 COUST GRIL OF MY DREAMS (27) RC) M Heathy-life 4 8 18 17 TWilliams 6
8 60-605 NORTH ARDAR 1299) N Littroden 7 8 6
9 506056 PRINCIPAL BOY (32) (D) J (30vor 4 8 5
10 0-0000 GREAT BEAR (65) D Chapman 5 7 1)
-10 declared Minimum weight. 7st 10to Top Lambican weight Great Bear /9t 8th
BETTINGS 5-2 Macrood, 3-1 Girl Of My Dreams, 9-2 Guesshmatton 6-1
Chadleigh Lane, 8-1 Principal Boy, 10-1 Orange Place, 18-1 others

معكاب الاجل

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

2.20: One Mun's odds offer little

value and it is worth opposing him

wilh SUNY BAY. Graham

Bradley's mount has won two

highly competitive events this sea-

son by a combined total of 24

lengths and we may not have seen

the best of him yet. See More Busi-

gess and the veteran Rough Onest

would come into it on really test-

ing ground but would otherwise

struggle to match the pace of the

the mud-lovers LAKE KARIBA

and Kadastrof, who both like to

force the pace. The latter was superior to his rival over hurdles but

may meet his match in Lake Kari-

ba, who has taken extremely well to fences, Paul Nicholls's six-year-

old has the additional assistance to-

day of Richard Dunwoody, who

takes over from the sidelined Tim-

my Murphy. Zabadi, Adrian

Maguire's mount, has yet to show

he can recapture his old form. John

Drumm is therefore likely to be the

main beneficiary if the top two were

to cut each other's throats by rac-

ing too fast in the early stages.

front two in the betting.

2.55: A fascinating clash between

PUNTERS' GUIDE

KEMPTON

1.10: High expectations are held

this season for Forest Ivory. He

jumped a little awkwardly before

falling two fences from home at

Chepstow on his chase debut. He then jumped more fluently to

make amends at Wetherby and Bangor. If his fencing continues to

improve he will prove very hard to

beal. At the likely odds, however.

it may be best to side with FID-DLING THE FACTS, who jumped

with fine agility when she was con-

fidently ridden to beat Ottown by

three-and-a-half lengths at Ling-

field a fortnight ago. Otrowa seeks

revenge, giving 7lb less today, but

the mare looks a very useful recruit,

1.45: The threat posed by Secret

Spring is difficult to assess. Peter

Hedger's hurdler is a course-anddistance winner on good to firm ground, but is something of an un-

known quantity on a softer surface.

On his seasonal reappearance over jumps at Cheltenham last month,

he did not get into the race on a

course to which he is probably un-

suited. Back on this flat track, the

five-year-old must be feared. Few-

er question marks, though, sur-

cound SERENUS. This

four-year-old had something in

hand when catching the in-form Namoodaj at Huntingdon last time and a 5lb rise in the weights for that

win is by no means harsh.

19/RACING

empton

KEMPTON

HYPERION 12.40 Zarajaska 2.20 Suny Bay 2.55 Lake Kariba 1.10 Fiddling The Facts 1.45 Serenus

GOING: Good to Soft

30UNLs: Global to dett.

B Right-hand course Practically flat. Run-in at 200yd.

Course to on A308 at Surbury. (Bus link from Ruchmond Underground station.) AD-HISSIONE CALL SEZ, Justions (8 to 25-year-club) 2H; Grandstand 2H; Silver Ring EZ, Ac-companied children under 8 free. CAR PARK: Members 25 (British and must be Obligation Graces Index free.

• LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson — 19 winners from 69 runners gives a success ratio of 275%; N Handerson 11 from 72 (153%); M Pipe 10 from 50 (20%); J Gifford B from

77 (117%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguine 25 wins from 85 rides gives a success ratio of 26.5%;

M A Fitzgerald 18 from 103 (17.5%); A Dumwoody 15 from 85 (17.8%); A P McCoy 8 from 65 (13.8%). ● FAVOURITES: 117 wins in 288 reces (40.8%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.40 PERTEMPS CATERING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m Penalty Value £6,938 12 ZARALASKA (22) (0) (BF) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 6 11 10

BETTING: 4-6 Zaroleoka, 11-2 Better Offer, Shehmar, 13-2 Baron Ferdinand, 16-1 Erint

1.10 PERTEMPS FELTHAM NOVICE CHASE (GRADE 1) (CLASS A) £35,000 3m Penalty Value £21,310

BETTING: 7-4 Forest tvory, 9-2 Fidolling The Facts, 6-1 Bengers Moor, Ottowe, Pantiende Flyer, 7-1 Shekals, 8-1 Eulogy 1996: Djeddah 5 11 7 A Kondrat 9-2 (F Doumen, Fr) 5 ran

1996: Dieddish 5 11 7 A Kondra 9-2 (F Dourren, Fr) 5 ran FORIEST MORTY has taken kindly to chasing and can complete a hat-trick. David Nicholson's runner, who wound up last season with a short-head victory in a three-mile hundle at Airtner, loopled over two out on his fencing bow in Northern Startight's race at Chepstow but has been an impressive winner of both starts since — at Wetherby and Bangor — and there is botter at the come. He represents the stable in preference to Eschafishue. Ottowa overcame a long absence to slore Eulogy a dozen langths at Worcester last month and the runner-up is no better off However, Ottawa was bealen three and a half lengths by Fiddling

The Facts at Lingfield next time and Nick Henderson's str-year-cld, who was not only having her first run since the spring but was also making her chasing debut on that occasion, can contimin superiority on 7th worse terms. Northern challenger Pentlands Flyer jumps well and is underleased after three chases – at Pertit, Carlsie and Kasto. He has had a distingent rider each time and orgain has a new paramer in Tony McCoy. Howard Johnsons unmer has more on his plate this time but will not be far save, Winning point-to-cointer Bengera Moor, a stablemate of Ottawa, made an encouraging debut over regulation tences when better a length and three-quarters by Wise King at Sandown. Shalkets made all on his chasing debut over an extended two and a half miles here before falling two out when holding with every chance in Tullymumy Tot's race at Cheltenham.

1.45 NETWORK PERSONNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 2m Penalty Value £6,575

2.20 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE (GRADE C4 1) (CLASS A) £100,000 3m Penalty Value £60,980 21F-22 BARTON BANK (27) (CD) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 11 11 10 A Maguin Emerald green, white stars, emerald green cap, white star 54-222 CHALLENGER DU LUC (FR) (13) (D) (D A Johnson) M Poe 7 to 10,... A P McCoy B

- 9 declared -

Black, red chevron, hooped cap

BETTING: 11-8 One Man, 9-4 Suny Bay, 5-1 Barton Bank, 8-1 Rough Quest, 18-1 Challenger Du Luc, See More Business, Senor El Betrutti, 33-1 Djeddah, 100-1 Yorkshire Gele 1996: One Man 6 ti 10 R Durwoody 8-13 fay (6 Roberds) 5 ran FORM GUIDE Reported better than ever, ONE MAN is possed to follow in the footsteps of Wayward Lad and Desort Orchid, who both fanded this prestigious prize three times - the last named going on to make it four. Gordon Richardsts grey came home by 14 lengths from Monseur Le Cure when the race was switched to Sandown two seasons ago - Barton Bank pulled up before two out - and scored by 12 lengths and nine lengths from Rough Quest and Barton Bank last term. Barton Bank, who won this in 1950, was clear only to bunder badly and unseat at the lest a year later - presenting the race to Algan - and he chased home Suny Bay at 23 lengths in the Hennessy last time. Yorkshire Gale and Djeddaft were both

SEDGEFLELD

val 3.30 Durano

GOING: Soft

HYPERION

1.00 Kakashda 1,30 Dark Oak 2,00 Executive

Design 2.30 Marble Man 3.00 Stylish Inter-

GOING: Soft.

Listi-hand, unclusing course, Easy tences and long run-in:
Course is 'm' SE of town near A688, ADMISSION: Paddock E8 (CAPS E4); Course S2, CAR PARK; Paddock E2, rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS; Mrs M Reveley 67-231 (29%), J Howard Johnson 20-81 (124%), G M Macta 19-13 (56%), J Made 15-91 (33%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 52-173 (301%), L Wyer 22-107 (206%), N Smith 14-88 (157%), T Reed 11-78 (41%).

FAYOURITES: 222-581 (382%), BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Allost (100), Miss Colette (130), Cadenter Premiers EQ. U. lik Hyadine (230).

1.00 RED ONION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 3f 110yds

1.30 KEN BRIGHT STILL GOING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m 3f

2.00 DURHAM INNS LTD NOVICE CHASE

(CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 5f

deaux Premiere (2D), Uk Hygiene (230).

pulled up in that event. One Main has finished thed in the last two Chellenham Gold Cups in which Barton Bank was fourth and second but the selection best David Nicholson's charge at Cheltenham - his bogey course - in January and in the Cherte Hall Chase at Wetherby on his return. He should do so again. One Man went on to defect Vising Flagship nine lengths in the Peterborough Chese over an inadequase two and a half at Hamingolin hast month. Rough Cuest, second in the 1996 Gold Cup, was having his first race since last year's King George when running very well to finish a six-length second to One Main's septiement. The Grey Monk at Haydock and must progress for the run. Even so, for the forecast Suny Bay is pretened. Charte Brooks's charge, who wound up last term with a fine effort to finish numer-up in the Grand National, was having his first run since when whining at Haydock last month - See More Business an 18 length time - and justified inocurism in great style in the Hernessy, giving a 13-length drumming to Barton Bank (park) 5b better. Senor El Bathatti pulled off the Murphy's-Trojeprint Gold Cup doubte, each time with challenger Du Luc runner-up, but his ability to cope with some of these at tests is in doubt.

2.55 NETWORK DESIGN INTERNATIONAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 2m Pen Value £6,970

Yellow, emerald green hoops & amalets, yellow cap 2-32F3 ZASADI (15) (CD) (BF) (Ledy Herrs) D Nicholson 5 ft 0... _____ Mauve & yellow check, yellow sleeves

- 6 deciared -BETTING: 7-4 Kadestrof, 5-2 Lake Karths, 7-2 Zebadi, 6-1 John Drumas, 6-1 Ambieside, 18-1 in termagic 1996: no corresponding race

The ground was not soft enough for Lake Kerble when he was besten more than three lengths by Chef's Song on his chasing debut here in October but he is unbeaten in three starts since - at Newton Abbot, Chepstow and Urtowere Even ao. KADASTROF comes here with the same record, following a fencing-bow second behind Wilde Music with victories over course and distance, Warwick and Ludlow. A great stable favourite - he has been with Robin Diction since his witting fuverille days - Kadastrof is only 2lb worse in with John Drummi than when beating him seven lengths at Warwick and he can complete the four-timer Zabadi has been disappointing over fences but is only rising six and will improve amough to find a smiler event in due course. He is 8lb better in with Lake Karba than when heaten 2 tengths he bad Karba than when heaten 2 tengths. FORM GUIDE Kariba than when beaten 12 lengths by Paul Nicholisis charge at Newton Abbot last month

3.25 PERTEMPS DESIGNER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £6,607

White, large red spots 8 armios, quertiend cap

-6 declared
Minamum: 10st, True handicap weights: Cition Set 9st 12th, Toby Brown 9st 9th, Decyborg 9st 3th.

BETTING: 5-4 Desaydam, 5-2 Friendship, 11-2 Toby Brown, 7-1 Halfe Derring, 6-1 Cition Set, 12-1

BETTINES: 5-4 Daraylam, 5-2 Friendsmp, 11-2 tooy prown, 7-1 make Journal, 6-1 darantees, 20 Decytorg 1986; Tim 8 to 8 M A Fitzgerild 7-2 (J. Jenkins) S ran FORM GUIDE.

An interesting after between Friendship and DARAYDAM and the latter might have the edge despite having to concede his rival 16b. Friendship, from the in-form Nick Henderson stable, landed a Worcester bumper the season before last and scored twice over intheir in 1995-97, while he hiss a 100 per carti record this term – winning over two mikes fire furiongs here and over a furiong further at Sandown. The longer trip will pose no problems. That last remark also applies to Daraydan (a good stayer on the First), who wound up last season successfully at Ascott and it also unbeating this term – going in at Cheltenham (twice) and at Newbury in between. Martin Pipe's five-year-old put up a fine display to beat Mightly Moss – who had finished three parts of a length in front of him when they were second and third behind latibized in the Royal Sundliance have a useful type last season with wins at Carliste, Haydock, Ultioweer and Ascott and he ran fourth of a big field behind Pharaneer in the Gold Card Hurde First at the Cheltenham Festival Nigel Twiston-Davies' numer has weekened towards the finish of both attempts this term but would pose a threat if back near his best. Clitton Set finished six lengths in front of Halle Derling when they were second – at 17 lengths – and fourth to Name Of Our Fisher at Ascot last month but Halle Derling can run that around with his Stip put.

2.30 RENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 110yds

Newton Abbot loses out

Today's programme suffered a "After persistent rain the ground Christmas Eve.

Michael Trickey, the clerk of

casualty when the meeting at is waterlogged and with further Newton Abbot was called off on rain forecast we have had no alternstive but to abandon."

It is the third year running the West Country track, said: that this fixture has been lost,

KING GEO	RGE	٧I	CH.	ASE	-	10-Y	EA	R-T/	YLE	
	1987	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	98
Fate of the tavourites:	2	1	_ 1_	_1_	_3	1_	_3_	U	_1_	_1
Winner's place in bettle	g= 0	1	_ 1	_1_	0	1	2/1	0_	_1_	_1
Starting prices:	25-1	1-2	4-6	9-4	10-1	1.1	9-2	15-1	11-4	8-1
Profit or loss to £1 stak	en: Fav	ru prih	DR +5"	179 5	Secon	of Fav	orunito	s C72	5.	
										_
Percentage of winners	placed	151,	2nd o	r 3rd it	n last					
Percentage of winners	placed	151,	2nd o	r 3rd it	n last					_
Percentage of winners Shortest-priced winner	placed Deser	1st.	2nd o hd 1-2	r 3rd t	n last					_
Percentage of winners	placed Deser	1st.	2nd o hd 1-2	r 3rd t	n last			6	8	8
Percentage of winners Shortest-priced winner, Longest-priced winner,	placed Deser Nupse 8	1st, t Orc la 25	2nd o hid 1-2 1 (1987 10	r 3rd t 2 (1986) 7) 11	n last	7	60% 7	6	8	8

FIRST SHOW

Ken	npton	1.45		King G	eorge	łY s	Cha
Horse	C	Н	T	Horse	C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Securus	6-2	5-2	94	One Man	11-10	11-8	5-4
Tibeten	2-1	52	52	Suny Bay	5-2	94	94
Secret Spring	5-1	5-1	5-1	Barton Bank	11-2	54	5-1
Doctoor	7:1	7-1		Rough Quest	9-1	9-1	8-1
			<u>61</u>	See More Busin	ese 14-1	12-1	16-1
Kingstold Pet	18-2	B-1	8-1	Cheffenger Du L	uc 16-1	20-1	18-1
Noble Colours	14-1	12-1	11-1	Senor El Betrati	16-1	14-1	20-1
Stiver Groom	16-1	14-1	74-1	Djeddaly	33-1	33-1	504
Bless Ma Sister	20-1	15:1	30-1	Yorkshire Gale	100-1	100-1	65-1
Each way a little C - Coral I	on the adds. H – William 1			Each way, a C-Coral, H-Wi			

11-10 5-2	11-8	54	64
25	94	94	94
11-2	54	5-1	5-1
9-1	9-1	8-1	6-1
s 14-1	12-1	16-1	16-1
16-1	20-1	16-1	15-1
64	14-1	20-1	16-1
33-1	33-1	504	404
100-1	100-1	661	100-1
	9-1 14-1 16-1 16-1 33-1	9-1 9-1 814-1 12-1 16-1 20-1 16-4 14-1	9-1 9-1 8-1 8-14-1 12-1 16-1 16-1 20-1 16-1 16-4 14-1 20-1 33-1 33-1 30-4

KING GEORGE VI CHASE - THE ROLL OF WINNERS Age & Weight B 11 13 W Dutton 10 11 7 P Cazalet 8 12 0 F Walwyn 10 11 7 P Cazalet 1955 Limber Hill 1956 Rose Park 1957 Mandarin J Power M Scudamore 100-6 P Madden 7-1 7-2 5-2 5-2 1958 Lochros 1959 Mandarin A Freeman P Madden F Walwyn 1960 Saffron Tartan D Butchers F Winter 6 12 0 F Walwyn G W Bobinson 1963 Mill House H T Jones S Melior T Dreaper (irt) P Tautte J Wells-Kendrew J King 1964 Frenchman's Cove 9 11 7 1965 Arkle 1966 Dormant ID-1 1967 Abandoned 100-30 1969 Titus Oates 7 11 10 G Richards S Mellor 1971 The Dikler 8 11 7 F Walwyn B Brogan R Pitman R Pitman F Winter F Winter 1972 Pendii 1973 Pendii 4-5 30-100 1974 Captain Christy 1975 Captain Christy 1976 Royal Marshall II 1977 Bacholor's Hall R Coonan G Newman 5-1 11-10 P Taaffe (kt) P Taaffe (kl) 16-1 9-2 3-1 3-1 9-4 G Thomer M O'Hallorar T Forster P Cundell 1978 Gay Spartan 7 11 10 A Dickinson 1979 Silver Buck 1980 Silver Buck 8 th 10 M Dickinson 1982 Wayward Lad M Dickinson 1983 Wayward Lad 8 11 10 1984 Burrough Hill Lad 8 11 10 M Dickinson R Earnshaw 1985 Wayward Led 1986 Desert Orchid 1987 Nupsala 1988 Desert Orchid 1989 Desert Orchid 1990 Desert Orchid 10 to 10 Mrs M Dickinson G Bradley 16-1 25-1 1-2 4-6 9-4 10-1 evens 9-2 S Sherwood A Pommier S Sherwood F Doumen (Fr) S 11 10 D Elsworth 10 11 10 D Elsworth 11 11 10 D Elsworth R Dunwoody R Dunwoody 1991 The Fellow 1992 The Fellow 6 11 10 F Doumen (Fr) A Kondort F Doumen (Fr) A Kondrat 7 11 10 7 11 10 O Nicholson 1993 Barton Bank 1994 Algan 1995 One Man* A Maguire P Chevaller R Dunwoody

8 11 10 G Richards 8 11 10 G Richards

 race run at Sandown in January DOUBLE ENGAGEMENTS

1996 One Man

The following horses are dowbly engaged today. Each horse RACING SERVICES will run at their second preference meeting only if their

first preferen	ice is abandoned.
prorette.	
	First preference
	Second
Cottage Craft	12.45 Wetherby
	2.05 Market Rasen
Don't Tell Tom	1.30 Huntingdon
	3.35 Hereford
Ham N'Eggs	1.15 Wetherby
	L25 Ayr
Kadastrof	2.55 Kempton
	1.15 Wetherby
Lime Street Blue	es 1.30 Huntingdon
	2.35 Hereford
Lord Hastie	3.35 Market Rasen
	3.25 Wetherby
Streric	1.30 Sedgelield
	1,00 Market Rasen
The Brower	1.30 Huntingdon
	2.35 Hereford
	Back - 14 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10

CIAL PRINCIPLE	IARIES	BESULI
KEMPTON	971	981
WETHERBY	972	982
WINCANTON	973	983
AYR	974	984
HEREFORD	975	985
HUNTINGDON	976	986
MARKET RASEN	970	980
NEWTON ABBOT	970	980
SEDCEFIELD	970	980
WOLY-ERHAMPTON	970	980
	<u>61_9:</u>	70
Cally trust Silp per party 1	S. plc. 5-miles	9 K2A 4

THE INDEPENDENT

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 $\{(X,Y,y)\}_{X\in \mathbb{R}^n} = \max_{x\in X_{X,X}} y_x$

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HYPERION 12.55 Forzair 1.25 Welsh March 2.00 No Finer Man 2,35 Naughty Future 3,10 Nawtinookey 3.40 Partah

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places). © Left-hand galloping course.

◆ Left-hand galloping course.

◆ Course is E of town on A758. ADMISSION: Cub £12; Grand-stand £7. CAR PARIC Free.

◆ LEADING TRAINERS: G Pilcherts \$3-160 (20.6%), Mrs M Reveley 28-141 (189%), J J O'Nelli 18-109 (17.4%), P Montelth 16-126 (12.8%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: B Storey 27-166 (16.3%), T Reed 13-121 (10.7%), R Supple 8-41 (22%), J Cattaghan 6-51 (9.8%), ● FAYOURITES; 169 wins in 382 ruces (44.2%). BLINGRED FIRST TIME: Paraon's Lodge, Blazing Trail, Segularing Holler (1255)

12.55 PORT 'N' BRANDY SELLING HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m

1 4572 RALEGIO [25] (CD) P Moritoth 8 2 0. Juridine (7) 2

2684 PARSONS LODGE (16) (D) LUngos 10 13. W Doming (7) 8

3 M FORZAR (15) (DF) J J O'Nell 5 10 13. R McGrath (3) 4

3 PPPO LAZING TRAIL (16) (D) Miss I. Russell 8 02 2. D Reid (7) 8 5

5 60-00 MOUNTAIN O'REAM (18) R Alan 4 10 0. J. J O'Reid (18) 8 03/PO STAYAN CELEBRATION (16) 4 Socio 6 10 0. R Harding 7

5 00 HUTCHIES LADY (34) R McKeller 5 10 0. R Harding 8 000 SAREBRISH ROLLER (13) J L'O'Nell 8 10 0. L'Opper (7) 8 9 0.06068 MEADOWLECK (18) W Young 8 10 0. S Taylor (5) 10 O'PP. POLAR WIND (223) N Maggott8 10 0. M Foster 16 declared - Marinum weight 10st Title hardings weights: Mountain Dream 8st 90, Mandowlock 8st 13th, Polar Wind 8st 11th.

BETTING: 15-8 Parson's Lodge, 11-4 Rallegio, 4-1 Forzak, 8-1 Segebrush Roller, 14-1 Mountain Dream, Hutchies Lady 8st 3th, Meadowlock 8st 13th, Polar Wind 8st 11th.

1.25 GOOSE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

E4,000 added 2m

1 02P-0 LATWERA (16) (D) J Charlton 6 11 4_life M Bradburns (5)

2 2RP-0 CITTADINO (253) (CD) C Thomson 7 10 12 _____ M Factor

3 5RP-4 COMMON SOUND (11) (D BF) J Bradby 6 10 2. R MeGamb (5)

4 9-005 ESCUMAU (10) G Richards 6 10 12 ____ 2nd prof

8 6RPP PATTER MERICHANT (265) Miss L Pussel 8 10 2. D Raid (7)

7 23.805 TESLAYMANTCH (10) (CD) J Golde 5 10 12 ____ 5 Diglar (5)

6 22-22 WELAN MARCH (10) (EF) G M Moore 5 10 12 ____ Chilippins

8 0-2500 FAMIE AND FANTASY (25) (D) A Williams 8 10 7 ____ A S Sonith

— 9 doctored —

BETTING: 5-2 William March, 7-2 Hann N*Eggs, 5-1 Cittadino, 8-1 La Riv
[erz, Common Sound, Teelpy h*allch, 12-1 Exquismu, 20-1 others

2.00 HOURSTONS OF AYR WINTER SALE NOVICE HOLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 4f 25-TA HOPPFULLORD (11) (D Br) P Cressbough 5 11 5.A S Smith 1PP-PP EASBY JOKER (20) (D) S Keptiswell 9 TO 12 _R McGmith (5)

2.35 ALADDIN AT THE GAIETY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f BETTER TIMES AHEAD (138 (CD) G FIG

- 7 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Better Times Abeed, 5-2 Naughty Putura, 4-1 Seeking Gold, Judicious Captain, 6-1 Shining Fountain, 20-1 Hag's Way, 33-1 Peter

3.10 TEXSTYLE WORLD SALE NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 2m 4f 14-123 RACHAEL'S OWEN (16) (D BF) J Godie 7 11 10. R McGodh (3) 0-232P MUSIC BLITZ (16) Wrs D Thomson 6 to 4 8 Harding

- 6 declared -BETTING: evens Master Bavard, 5-2 Solsgirth, 11-2 Rachael's Owes, 6-1 Munic Bitz, 14-1 True Scot, Newtinookey

3.40 WHISKY MAC HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f

14:-30 STASH THE CASH (27) (D) M Hammond 6 ti 11 R Gardity 01:-38 DR BONES (20) (CD) F Murphy 4 ti 8 P Carberry 4205- KATAK (237) (CD) T Easterby 6 ti 7 L Wyer 11/222 HOUSE OF DREAMS (27) D M Moore 5 0 t3 ... N Bentley 4024- SAMANID (211) (D) Mes L Satist 5 10 9 T Reed - 6 declared -

12.50 Just Jasmine 1.20 Storm Run 1.55 GLITTER ISLE (nap) 2.30 None Stirred 3.00 Danger Baby 3.30 Negative Equity

GOING: Good to Soft.

GOING: Good to Soft.

Right-hand, galloping course Run-in of 200yd.

Course is NE of town on 83081. ADMISSION: Members £14; fattersals SB: Course £4 (Under-16s free) CAR PARK: Free LEADING TRAINERS: K Balley 23-69 (33.3%), J Gifford 16-72 (22.2%), O Hubbard 13-81 (21.3%). N Henderson IT-38 (28.9%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 15-70 (214%) M Brehnsin 7-51 (37%), J A McCarthy 6-38 (58.%), R Thomton 5-15 (33.3%).

FAVOURITIES: 211-489 (43.1%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Jet Rules (2.30).

1 CCLASS D) £5,000 acced 2m

1 68-32 MORSTOCK (82) (CD) R Hodges 7 ti 10

2 93-95 CLETON GAME (37) 8 R Milman 7 ti 5

3 15-151 STORM RIM (34) (D) P Nichols 7 ti 5

4 26-25 THE CARROT MAN (34) (D) P Windwardt 9 ti 3 ... P Hide

5 22534 WHO'S TO SAY (CD) (D 89) D. P Pinched ti 10 ti D P Pinched

5 22534 WHO'S TO SAY (CD) (D 89) D. P Pinched ti 10 ti D P Pinched

5 22534 ROBRISC VALLEY (198) (D) M Pipe 6 to 10

7 64-82 TROUMAN (49) (D) A Timel 6 to 3 ... C Mande

8 U2-933 ROBRIS PRIDE (11) (CD) C Pothem 7 to 2 ... And pref

6 declared - declared -

1. 1030 STATELY HOME (34) (D) PBowen 6 to 2 R Johnson 2012 MORTHERN STARLIGHT (13) (C) (D) M Ppc 6 to 6 C Moude 222-0 AROUND THE GALE (24) (D) D Gandoth 6 to 1 Hervey P Hide 35-318 KOO'S PROMISE (18) (CD) C Poprism 8 to 13 R Greene

- 1

-7 declared BETTING: 5-4 Northern Starlight, 7-2 Stately Home, 9-2 Around The Gale, 13-2 Gitter Isle, Amiah, 16-1 Koo's Promise, 33-1 Wayward King

3.00 LORD STALBRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

BETTING: 11-4 Linton Rocks, 3-1 Sunley Bay, 7-2 Juliura, 4-1 Danger Baby, 8-1 Besurepaire, 16-1 Fools Errand, Brave Highlander

3.30 PARKERS CATERERS NOVICE HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m

- 14 declared

WETHERBY

HYPERION 12.45 Glenbower (nb).15 Ham N'Eggs 1.50 New Inn 2.25 Sparky Gayle 2.55 Cumbrian Challenge 3.25 Foundry Lane

GOING: Good to Soft. Laif-hand, sharp undutating course. Run-in of 200yds.
 Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSIONS Members 228, Tetersals SS, Course 23 (OAPS 22), Accompanied under-16e free.

CAR PARIC Free.

© LEADING TRANSPS: G L Moore 9-33 (273%). M Pipe 9-48 (58%).

© LEADING TRANSPS: G L Moore 9-33 (273%). M Pipe 9-48 (58%).

J ON 7-23 (50%). N Trifaton-Device 7-31 (26%). A Turnell 6-28 (21/%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: C Lientellyn 4-24 (16.7%). J R Kavarnigh 4-34 (10.9%). D Gellangher 4-62 (77%). M Richards 4-78 (5.4%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

The second secon 12.45 BOXING DAY NOVICE HANDICAP HOLE (CLASS D) 53,650 2m 4f 110 yos

1.15 BOROUGHBRIDGE NDVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m (CLASS C) £6,300 added Zm

1 44m-KADASTROF (FR) (18) (D) R Didd 7 ft 2. 2nd pref

2 0-22 SHINNG EDGE (S) (CD) (IS) T Essierby 5 ft 9 doubted

3 0POFP ARBELWEUS (11) Miss L Scidat 8 ft 4 T Reed B

4 89'30. COURT JOKER (29) H Assender 5 ft 4 R Storey

5 28-4 HQN WEGES (16) (D) M Hammond 8 ft 4 R Garrilly

6 (P-OK JOLLY HEART (13) O Brants 7 ft 4 M Bransan

- 8 deplaced - 8 BETTING 9-45 Kadestrot, 3-1 Shiching Edge, 7-1 Ham M'Eggs, 16-1 Jol
17 Heart, 20-1 Court Joker, 25-1 Althographus

- 6 declared -BETTING: 15-8 New law, 9-4 Dr Bones, 4-1 House Of Dresus, 7-1 Stash The Cash, 6-1 Keltak, Samurid 2.25 RDWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 3m 1f 1711-4 SPARKY GAYLE (41) (BF) C Parker 7 11 10 B Stores 4-217 STRATH ROYAL (20) (CD) O Brances 11 10 10 . . M Brans 5 2111-2 COLONEL IN CHIEF (20) (CD) G Richards 7 to 4 P Carberry - 5 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Colonal In Chief, 11-4 Sparky Gayle, 4-1 Major Ball, 9-2 Avro Amen, Strath Royal 2.55 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 23-405 ROYAL MOUNTEROWNE (13) (II) Miss M Rowland 6 n 10 ...
P Midgley (3)
2 4-611 CLIMERRAN CHALLENGE (20) (CD) T Seserby 8 to 3 ... Where
3 2214-3 CHIEF MINISTER (40) (C 1) EP) M Harmond 8 to 6... R Cambry
4 /230- WHISPERING STEEL (283) (D) G Richards 10 8... B Storey
5 13/29- MONTHANTS (306) (C) (D) W Storey 1 to 0 ... M Motorovy
6 213323 BRAMBE EBISHRY (B) (C) (D) W Storey 1 to 0 ... M Motorovy
6 213325 BRAMBE EBISHRY (B) (C) (D) W Storey 1 to 0 ... M Motorovy
6 213326 BRAMBE CHERNRY (B) (C) (D) W Storey 1 to 0 ... M Motorovy
6 213327 BRAMBE CHERNRY (B) (C) (D) W Storey 1 to 0 ... M Motorovy
6 213328 BRAMBE CHERNRY (B) (C) (D) W Storey 1 to 0 ... M Motorovy
6 213329 BRAMBE CHERNRY (B) (C) (D) W Storey 1 to 0 ... M Motorovy
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6 213329 BRAMBE CHERNRY (B) (C) (D) W STORY
6 213329 BRAMBE CHERNRY (B) (C) (D) W STORY
6 213329 BRAMBE C 23-405 ROYAL MOUNTEROWNE (13) (D) Mes M Rowand 8 TI 10

3.25 CHRISTMAS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) 23,650 added 2m

WINCANTON

HYPERION

12.50 FATHER XMAS MARES NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1 ZPAPO DOLCE NOTTE (4) M Pice 7 ti 3
2 45-301 JLST JASMINNE (25) (0) K Behop 5 ti 3
3 0 ARDENT BRIDG (25) J Difford 4 ti 0 0
4 0- ANONCLIFF (269) J King 4 ti 0 0
5 20 DAISY (27) (89) M to J Pinnes 4 ti 0 0
6 0 FRINGE BENEFIT (20) J Gifford 6 ti 10
7 30(-0 KENTFORD THA (31) J Malins 6 ti 10
8 421-44 KINNAHALLA (11) G Balding 5 ti 0 0
9 0-PO LIJCYS (RE) SLIPPER (13) P Jones 5 ti 10 Sophie Mitchell (5)
10 2M-11 POTTER AGAIN (37) (8F) 0 NICHISON 5 ti 10
11 34-066 SALLY SCALLY (15) A Hobbs 5 ti 10
12 TREMICOM Miss K George 8 ti 10
13 TREMICOM Miss K George 8 ti 10
10 Stattery (7)
11 Stattery (7)
12 TREMICOM Miss K George 8 ti 10
10 Stattery (7)
11 Stattery (7)
12 KETTING: 9-4 Potter Again, 5-1 Delsy, 8-1 Just Jegmine, 7-1 Dolce Notite, Kinnsthalle, 8-1 Ardent Brids. Kentlord Time, 10-1 others

1.20 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

1.55 MID SEASON CHASE (INTERMEDIATE) (CLASS B) \$10,000 added 2m 5f

Minimum, 10st. Catempo 9st 10fb, Song Of kenda & Bet Witshire 9st 6tb. BETTING: 3-1 Millerd Sound, 9-2 Mr Darcy, 13-2 Welton Assenal, 8-1 Ce-bellus, Gelacia, liendra, 10-1 Lotschberg Express, 12-1 others I Who scored his first century in 25 Test matches but still ended up on the losing side?

2 Who lost the Johannesburg hattle but won the South African war?

3 Who lost 8-4 on the final day but still won?

4 Who lost his place in the England team but came uff the bench to inspire victory in

5 Who survived their final-day shoot-out but lost their home?

6 Who scored 16 points, a record for a British player in a home match against Australia. but ultimately ended up on the losing side?

7 Which England team won at the start and the end but lost too many in the middle?

8 Who lost at Villa Park in May but were reprieved by results at Elland Road and Selhurst Park?

9 Who won at Wembley and drew in Rome but still lost

10 Who was happy to lose all his

AROUND THE WORLD

1 Who recorded the first Australian success in New York for 24 years?

2 Which steeplechaser won on his debut for Britain and helped his team to victory in Munich?

3 Which American ico Swedish team to victory in South Africa after the opening battle of a 31,000-mile con-

4 Which Belgian struck three goals past an Irishman in the space of 18 days to help knock him out of two competitions?

5 How did Love conquer all in New York?

6 Which 16-year-old's 40-match winning run was ended by a 19-year-old in Paris?

7 Who won in France for the first time in 48 years - and will hope to do so again next year?

8 Which German won by just over ninc minutes in a threeweek race that finished in Paris?

9 Whu made up for a Wembley penalty miss by scoring in

10 Who needed only 95 seconds to leave his opponent poleaxed in Atlantic City?



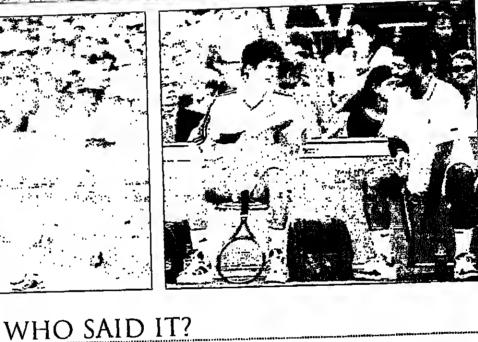












THE INVADERS

1 Which Swiss came to London and heat a record set 110 years earlier by the daughter of a wealthy Cheshire cotton 7 Which Italian inspired his

2 Which Finn was on top of the world after finishing sixth in Chelienham?

3 When did a Finn's retirement enable a Canadian to triumph in Northamptonshire?

4 Which American enjoyed majur success in Britain after having to qualify for the same event on his two previous visits?

5 Who needed unly 94 minutes iu emulate Rod Laver?

6 Who returned to Wales 25

FIFTEEN MINUTES years after a famuus defeat to inflict a crushing 81-3 victory?

team to a winning debut on How did they hit the headlines: Merseyside in August?

8 Which Australian secured his fourth world title by mutoring to an unbeatable 121-point lead with victory in Britain?

9 How did a Frenchman and a German thwart British ambitions on the same day at a new

10 Which foreign recruit bowed out of British sport with the following words: "I now wish to do other things. I always planned to retire when

I was at the tup."

OF FAME

l Khodadad Azizi

2 Bohdan Ulihrach 3 Phil Sharpe

4 Sandrine Testud

5 Karl Le Tissier ь Amy Kavanagh

7 Jamie Hewitt

10 Le Bar Toulzac

9 Emily Drumm

the door will upon one day." 2 "It would have been great to

get my 22nd victory, but we have shown all the field a clean pair of heels. This is a bloody good result and everyone should be pleased with it."

3 "We're 100 per cent behind him, but as much as I want him to carry on I love him too much he try and influence that decision if it's nut right for him."

4 "Only an hour before the match I'd been silting in the dressing-room alongside all the players I had looked up tu since I've been a kid. I've got ers coming off the pitch just

I "If I knock at the door often videos of some of them and now now. Their world had caved in especially in this tournament, same pitch as the Paul Inces and what we had to suffer last the Paul Gascoignes. It was season." fantastic."

> 5"l don't think I have to prove myself as an athlete and they have not really listened to the medical situation I have had... The thing that really upset me is that no une contacted me to tell me about this. No one had the decency ur the courtesy just

tu phone me."

6 "The ref was absolutely magnificent. It is the fairest performance I have seen from a referee for years."

7" looked at the Sheffield play-

enough, as I seem to be doing. all of a sudden I was out on the for the time being. That was

8 "It was simply a typical racing accident, one of those things that happen. Jacques gol a had start and I just went for the gap on the inside."

9"1 never thought he would try to take me out because he isn't that type of sportsman. But he obviously drove to make things as difficult for me as possible."

10 "Jacques cut in and didn't try tu brake at all. Certainly, 1 closed the door. It was clearly about winning it all or nothing, and there was nothing more to

major success was harmed by an unscheduled visit to a Scottish

3 Why was Georgi Kinkladze at Wembley when Manchester City were not?

4 Whose world title challenge ended in tears?

5 How did a chicken farmer humiliate England?

6 Which Romanian footballer made a return trip to Spain via the East End of London?

7 When did Linda get the better of Gazza?

8 How did 13 contenders lose out to a winning pickpocket at

9 Who enjoyed success in Geor-gia after an unlikely opening score of 40-30?

10 What caused Venus Williams. and Ginger Helgeson Nielson to scuttle away during a tennis match in the Lipton Championships at Key Biscayne?

RECORDS AND LANDMARKS

1 Where did an Ethiopian lose two world records on the same night to two Kenyans?

2 Who extended their unbeaten run in Cardiff to 14 years with a victory by the narrowest of margins?

3 Which England captain reached her century at the Almondvale Stadium in Liv-

4 Who had every reason to feel bullish after ending a 16-year wait?

5 Which French race was won in a time nearly two seconds

faster than in any of its previous 75 runnings?

6 Who was poles apart for a record sixth time in a row?

7 Who made history by winning in two countries on the same day?

8 Who broke a series of records by scoring 52 points in Paris, 29 in London and 68 in Edin-

9 Which Welsh team emulated their successes of 1948 and 1969 by winning in 1997?

10 Which team's hopes of recording an unprecedented 12th successive Test victory in a calendar year were denied by a late kick?

ANSWERS

by England at Twickenbarn thanks learn, who were held to a 26-26 draw. norme angue aboth the officer cricket County Championship. 9 Clamorgan, who won their third

Scotland in successive internationleam beat France, England and noine yages neoitly, alued out 8 pionship in Handover. m sqinanoiquad Champions naura 7 Tim Henman, who won at the

sixth time in succession. Championship pole vault for the o Sergei Bubles, who won the World Peintre Celebre. borse race, won in a record time by o The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

-iÖ kriH blo ədl ni əzəsəsə qirlənə to years after their last champi team, who won the Super League, 4 The Bradiond Bulls rugby league Scotland.

team, won her 100th cap against the England women's football 3 Gillian Chultard, the captain of nuion's Five Nations' Champi-

The Iteland rugby union learn, after the learn of which the learn of which the learn of the lear -Newtre meeting in gaineem extending at the Ivo Van Damme memorial Sproom and 10,000m world records Fergal broke Halle Gebiselassies Likenya's Daniel Komen and Paul Records and landmarks

rsioienads and caused panie among the speeds onlinding year stilbring in A Lift cisusuA ic bauor said an invard nine of 30 in the first Masters after an outward nine nf 40 9 Tiger Woods, who won the US рстру за Ерьош. pickpocket) won the 14-runner

6 Benny The Dip Insmed after a land's 2-1 victory at Old Trafford in Telford and at the ATP Tour Cham-Cascolgae in a tackle during Eng-African midlielder, injured Paul 7 Linda Buthelezi, the South

> panyol after a spell with West Ham ermational against England 6 Florin Raducioni, who rejoined Es-וס עבול עש ועב ועתם סטב-מסג ועeter for Zimbabwe, 100k n hat-trick

> 5 Eddo Brandes, an amaieur crick-Lennox Lewis in Las Vegas. reciege idgit olib gaixed idgisw in the ring during his world heavy-4 Oliver McCall, who burst into tears

3 He played for Georgia against botton linni zin at blod purposes and in the beach all the grant Troon but never recovered after dri-Dren le quianoiquedo llog noqO 2 Darren Clarke, who had led the El Speba course. five days because nt rain at the Nad nenest horse race, was delayed for I The Dubai World Cup, the world's

England in a World Cup qualifying

collision, Villeneuve went nn towin Grand Prix of Europe. Despite the Ission with Jacques Villeneuve at the 10 Michael Schumacher alter his col-

and purish a reunificated a postess add to riets and it, beat and saist of mid secures Villeneuve had cut across Australian Grand Prix. Jacques Villeneuve at the start of the 8 Eddie Irvine, who collided with

31 Membley. ed in the First Division play-off final minute anumph over Sheffield Unitmanager, alter bis icam's last-7 Steve Coppetl, the Crystal Palace

World Cup qualifier against Italy in Ende's performance in the erucial on the Durchman Mario van der b Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, unable to prove his form and funces. suffering from a virus and had been World Championships. He had been lectors had not picked him for the media that the British athletics se-5 Roger Black after learning via the Wempley.

4 Rio Ferdinand on his England the Test series defeat by Australia. ion should stay on as captain after et coach, on whether Mike Ather-3 David Lloyd, the England crickthe Hungarian Grand Prix. ार प्रश्न स्थलपार कार्याह्मा कार्या प्राप्त प्राप्त का baccos gaidsinit rolls flill nomsQ (

football debut against Cameroon at

Els in the final of golf's US Open. Dects on toxing by one stroke to Ernie ing for his first win in major, rel Colin Montgomerie, still search-

bruising Heincken European Cup hy union players fought after their but where Brive and Pontypridd rugto Le Bar Toulzac was the French in a benefit match to New Zealand. ment in Augusta. 9 Emily Drumm caught out the Eng-land cricket capitain Mike Atherton Land cricket capitain Mike Atherton

round of the Masters golf lourna-8 John Huston led after the first replay against Middlesbrough Chesterfield an FA Cup semi-final minute equaliser which earned 7 Jamie Hewitt scored the lastof the Australian's serves.

his tacket after failing to return one when Coran Ivanisevic handed her tois tennis fournament at Oucen's Poussis at the final of the Stella Armock tally against Mark Philipschoolgirl from Cheam, played a blo-my-H is against and o прад эни содинати ред Wembley - belone Glenn Hoddle play for England against lialy at tion that his brother Matthewwould

5 Karl Le Tissier told a radio staseed, out of Wimbledon. knocked Monieu Seles, the No. 2 4 Sandrine Testud of France ot a bonib seare. contact faid been evacuated because

DUD TOLLE SOSTON LEMONTEN DREAD stayed at Aintree to tend to the 3 Phil Sharpe was the stable lad who MOTON

ar cintolines in ellow neibni beat the Wimbledon champion at hear Pete Sampras in 1997 when he Republic became the first player to 2 Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech in the World Cup finals next year. sould a brie amuodlaM in allesianA Ranings wurth 2-2 a mini botmes daidw ling off benote isixA behebodA I emai lo setunim neefili

tona, who announced his retirement 10 Manchester United's Eric Can-TRUCK LOW WERE Wimbledon quarter-finals on the Tim Hemman respectively in the beat Britain's Greg Rusedski and u Cedne Pioline and Michael Stich Grand Prix in Dunington.

mnorcycling's 500cc world cham-8 Michael Doohan, who elinched wietship season. Evention on the first day of the Prehelped Crystal Palace win 2-1 at 7 Attilia Lumbardo, where goal ושומכווד

deling of grinning the British

ni tealab 2701 niadi bagnave odw n The All Blacks rugby union team. Wimbledon wins. equalled Rod Laver's number of Wimbledon Inumph, which beat Cedric Pioline for his fourth of Pere Sampras took 94 minutes to

.igməlic golf championship at the third 4 Justin Leonard, who won the Open Prix at Silverstone. Villeneuve win the British Grand sanbaer padjay pua ayi wooj sdej 3 Mika Hakkinen's retirement six which finished at Chellenham.

finishing sixth in the RAC Rully.

World Rallyng Chanipiniship by 2 Tommi Makinen, who won the gics title at Wimbledon since Lottie vourgest winner of the women's sin-1 Martina Hingis, who became the The invaders

the Polish-born Andrzej Golota. Title with a first-round victory aver World Boxing Council heavyweight 10 Lennox Lewis, who retained his

World Cup victory away to Befrom the spot in Scotland's 1-0 in Euro 96. veuted the winning goal purply is partial bright of the partial functions a Gary McAllister, who missed a France.

8 Jan Ullrich, who won the Tour de Tournoi de France. beat France 1-0 in Montpellier in the 7 The England football team, who French Open tennis toumsment. on in the women's singles final at the -i:Marina Hingis, who lost to liva M:idinanoiquedo

5 Davis Love won the US PGA golf ed in the Champions' League. Eindhoven played Newcastle Unit-

the same goalkeeper when PSV treland. He also soored twice against play-off against the Republic of past Shay Given in a World Cup 4 Luc Milis scored Belgium's winner the World race. the first leg of the Whithread Round

3 Paul Cayard, skipper of the pean Cup. British athletics team win the Euro-5,000m steeplechase helped the 2 Robert Hough's victory in the John Newcombe in 1973. the US Open men's singles title since

Swedish yacht EF Language, won

Patrick Rafter, who became the Атопаа със жола VICTORY OVER SOUTH ALINER. head shaved after his leam's series pre-malch promise by having his by union coach, who lived up to his 10 lan McGeeethan, the Linns rug-

first Australian tennis player to win

the World Cup linals. chase for automatic qualification for were heaten by England in the 9 The Ualian football team, who of the season. yes at Aston Villa on the final day place in the Premiership despite low-

8 Southampion, who kept their the Ashes series 3-2. won the first and last Tests but lost 7 The England cricket leam, who tralia but his leam lost the series 2-1. Lé points in a 20-12 victory over Aus-Britain rugby league team, scirred 6 Andy Farrell, captain of the Great

velopers. Ground houne after it was sold to dehad to move out of their Goldstone gation from the Football League but drew with Hereford to avoid rele-S Brighton and Hove Albion, who

Varions' Championship. miple crown in rughy union's Five land beat Wales 34-13 to win the Lieremy Guscott, who helped Engtosing the final-day singles. Who beat the United States despite 3 The European Ryder Cup team, nesing druo? issuese est lost the third Test but won the se-

2 The Lions rugby union team, who was unable to prevent a nine-wicket tud notzedybil te basignil tenisys tain, scored 129 in the First Test I: Mark Taylor, the Australian cap-

Winners and losers (Stells Arrols tends loumsment). Australia), Queen's Club, London v bridge (fifth Test, England v Visar, football World Cup play-off); bounte Cricket Ground (Australia Sonom row (left to right): Mel-"Mew Zealand rugby union).

ship final); Old Trafford (England Trafford (Rugby League Premier-Middle row (left to right): Old Cape Jown (South Alrica v Lions,

South Africa football), Newlands, Top row (left-to right): Wembley (FA Gup final); Old Trafford (England

39 M 128 •

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Control with (lest lest) the sale of with Comment to the A

21/SPO]

EAP Palace to offer Zohar EUT as they deal for Dublin

Crystal Palace are ready to offer the Israeli midfield player Itzhak Chris Freestone has joined Sec-Zohar to Coventry City as part of a swap deal that would bring Dion Dublin to Selburst Park.

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, has been unable to give Zohar a regular game since signing him from the Belgian side Royal Antwerp for £1m. Now Palace are ready to offer Zohar plus £3m for Dublin. Gordon Strachan, the the Coventry manager, may be prepared to sell Dublin after signing the Romanian striker Voriel Moldovan for £3,25m.

. . .

The Everton marrager Howard Kendall is hoping to fi-nalise terms and sign Mickael Madar to a contract by midday today, so that the French striker can be in his team for the game with Bolton on Sunday. Madar is expected to agree to a contract worth around £14,000 a week at Goodison, which means he will take a cut from his current employers, the Spanish ciuh Deportivo La Coruña. Madar went back to Spain on Christmas Eve to sort out a final payment from Deportivo.

The Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall will play his first game for Southend United today, having agreed to join the Second Division club on a month's loan. The 39-year-old Welsh international takes over from Simon Royce at Brentford. Rovce is ruled out by a onematch suspension after being sent off at Fulham in an FA Cup tie earlier this month.

Alvin Martin, the Southend manager, is delighted with the deal, and said: "I felt it was the right time to bring somebody of Neville's stature to the club. He's got a massive presence. It will be great for the supporters to see him here and hopefully he'll lift the whole place."

The Middlesbrough striker ond Division Northampton for £75,000. The 26-year-old has spent three weeks on loan with the Cobblers. The Charlton striker Steve Jones has returned to his former club Bournemouth.

The Southampton manager David Junes has failed in a bid to sign the German midfield player Raif Weber from Eintracht Frankfurt. The Saints had agreed a £1 m deal with Eintracht but Weber decided not to travel to the Dell for talks. Jones will make a decision next. week on whether to sign the Danish international full-back Jens Risager, who is on trial from Brondby.

Police have cast doubt on reports suggesting that a Far East betting syndicate interfered with Monday night's abandoned game at Selhurst Park. It had been alleged that Asian businessmen were behind the floodlight failure during the Premier League game between Wimhledon and Arsenal.

'Nottingham Forest and 16 of their former players have started court action against Anderlecht over the 1984 Uefa Cup hribery scandal. "The writ has been served," Forest's Belgian lawyer Filip Goemans said on Christmas Eve. "We had set today as the deadline but since we did not get a positive reaction, I was ordered by my clients to issue a summons,"

The Belgian club's former chairmen Constant Vanden Stock admitted in September having paid around £16,000 as a "loan" to the Spanish referee in the second leg of the 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final which they won 3-0. Forest, who had won the first leg 2-0, had a goal controversially disallowed in the return leg. Alan Nixon

Collymore assault charge

The Aston Villa stiker Stan Liverpool in the summer for Collymore has been charged with assault. Collymore, 26. was arrested at an address in Cannock, Stafforshire on Christmas Eve. and has been bailed to appear before magistrates in the town.

£7m. He joined Liverpool from Nottingham Forest in 1995 for what was then a British record

Despite being a regular with Villa this season, his performances have been widely criti-Collymore, an England in- cised. Collymore was due to play ternational, joined Villa from for Villa against Spurs today.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

_		PI	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	_A	W	D	L	F	Α	POPIN POST POST OR REPLY	Opcoming matches
1	Man Utd	19	43	+32	8.	Ţ	0	28	ुं 🛊	5 -	_3	- 2	17	. 9	wwwww	Sunday Coverny (Ap. 16 Jun Teltrechine (H): 19 Jun Southémpton (A): 35 June Lecenter (III)
2	Blackburn	19	39	+17	7	2		23	10	4	4	1	13	9	WLWWW	Sunday C Palace (H), 10 Jan Derby (A): 17 Jan Aston Villa (H): 31 Jan Liverpool (A).
3	Circisea	19	38	+26	6	1	<u>ુ -</u> -	K.	6	6	1	4	29	В	WWWDW.	Planetty Scattermann (A): 10 Jan Covertry (1-1) 16 Jan Everton (A): 31 Jan Barreloy (1-1)
4	Leeds	19	34	+9	5_	2	3	Б	11	5	2	2	13	8	WWDDW	Sunday Asson Villa (H): 10 Jan Arsenal (A). 17 Jan Shelf Wed (H): 31 Jan C Palace (A)
5	Liverpool	18	31	+#	_6·	0	3	20	9	3	4	2	11	Ø	LWLWW	- Survive Neurosale (A): 30 per Windledon (ki) 17 Jun 1 secesar (A): 20 per Newcasile (H):
6	Arsenal	18	30	+11	5	2	2	19	7	3	4	2	В	14	WLLWL	Sanday Tottenham (Ag 10 Jam Leeds (H); 17 Jam Coventr, (A); 31 Jam Southampton (H).
7	Derby	19	-29	+6	6.	3	0.	19	5	2	2	6	14	22	TWOOD	Sunday Barristey (A); 10 jun Budibum M; IZ jun Wilhipledon (A); 37 jun liotzenham (H)
8	Leicester	19	27	+5	3	5	3	12	Ю	4	ī	3	li	8	DWDLL	Sunday Shelf Wed (Ht; 10 Jan Aston Villa (A), 17 Jan Liverpool (H); 31 Jan Man Urd (A)
ે 9	Newcastle	18	26	2	-5	- 3	3	Ð.	Ш	2	2	. 3	8.	ı	LLDDL	Standay Lycroped (17) W Jan Shell Wed (A). 17 Jan Bolton (1-1), 10 per Leerpool (A).
lo	West Ham	19	25	-6	7	0	ī	17	Ь	1	Ť	9	8	25	WWLWL	Sungay Wimpledon (A), 10 Jan Barnsley (H); 17 Jan Tottenham (A), 31 Jan Everton (H).
11	Wimbledon	18	23	2	17.3	2	-5	Ħ.	H	-3 -	3	2	В	. 7	WILWD	Sinday West Ham Trib. 20 from Liverpool (A): 7 Jan Decky (1-1): 21 Jan Steff West (A):
12	Aston Villa	19	22	-5	4	2	3	12	ß	2	2	6	8	12	WLWLD	Sunday Leeds (A): 10 Jan Lecester (H). 17 Jan Blackburn (A): 1 Feb Newcastie (H)
13	C Palace	19	21	-8	0	∴.3	5	- 5	Д4.	5	∵3.	*3	12	Ħ	מומנו	Sunday Statistics (A), 10 jan Searton (H): -17 jan Barnsley (A), 31 jan Leeth (H).
14	Sheff Wed	19	21	-12	5	1	4	18	17	1	2	6	13	26	WWWLL	Sunday Lecester (A); 10 Jan Newtastle (H); 17 Jan Leeds (A); 31 Jan Wimbledon (H).
15	Southempton	. 19	20 -	-6	:5	<u> </u>	4	۱7:	14.	1	·- F	7,.	<u>â</u>	- Б	LILLWD	Monday Chelses (1-1): 18 jan Bolson (A): 19 jan Man Utd (11): 31 jan Arsensi (A)
16	Coventry	19	20	-8	3	6		14	10	T	2	6	3	15	mwr	Sunday Man Utd (H), 10 Jan Chetes (A), 17 jan Arsenal (H), 31 jan Schon (A)
17	Bolten	19	20	-B	3	-5	St.	- 8	6	-1 €	. 3 -	: 6:	: 8	23	WWLDL	Sunday Everton (A); JB Jan Southampton (A); IZ Jan Novezatte (A); JB Jan Coverary (H)
18	Tottenham	19	19	-15	4	2	4	1	И	1	2	6	6	18	TMITM	Sunday Arsenal (H), 10 Jam Man Utd (A): 17 Jan West Ham (H), 31 Jam Derty (A).
19.	Everton	19	17	-10	3	∴.2	4	. 11	ß	1	3	-6	: 6	14	HDDW	Sunday Bolton (H). 18 Jan Crystal Palace (A). Ill Jan Christa (H). 38 Jan West Harp (A).
20	Barnsley	19	14	-33	2	2	5	10	20	2	0	8	7	30	WLLDL	Sunday Derby (H), 10 Jun West Ham (A), 7 Jun Chessal Palace (H), 31 Jun Chessa (A)

TEAM-BY TEAM GUIDE TO TODAY'S GAMES

Arsenal v Leicester Last year: 2-0 Leading score

Arsenal will be without Adams, who is out for a month with a back : Sturridge returns to the Rams' attack after recovering from a strained injury, white midfielder Petit is suspended and striker Wright plays his final game before e two-match ban. Leicester manager Martin O'Neill is set to name an unchanged side. Cottee could be called back from his loan spell at Birmingham.

Aston Villa v Tottenham Last year; 1-1 Leading scorer

Villa will check on the fitness of Southgate, Staunton and Oakes, Liverpool captain Ince is fighting to be fit after a groin problem kept who were laid low with a virus in the early part of the week. For Spurs, Ferdinand has recovered from a virus which forced him to in if he fails a fitness test. Leeds centre back Radebe completes a miss the second-half against Barnsley last Saturday, Klinsmann : two-match ban, which provides another chance for Molenaar, Kewell will not make his Spurs debut second time around at Villa Park
will come into contention if he recovers from a knee injury. Hasas he will be with his family in Genoa.
will come into contention if he recovers from a knee injury. Hasselbaink will continue to partner Wallace if Kewell is kept waiting.

Bolton v Barnsley Last year: 2-2 Leading score

Fish, back from S Africa duty, and Taggart, who has recovered from a groin injury on the back of a six-game ban, are in contention. Whitlow is on standby to replace Phillips. Holdsworth and Thompson are suspended, and keeper Branagan is hoping to earn e recall despite a groin injury, Barnsley will have a fully-fit squad, with the exception of Davis, and Yugoslav midfielder Bosancic should play.

Chelsea v Wimbledon Last year: 2-4 FC Vieli 11

Chelsea will be without injured Babayaro and suspended Mark Hughes, but if Morris shakes off flu, manager Ruud Gullit will have the rest of his squad to choose from. Wimbledon will be without suspended duo Perry and Cerl Hughes. Strikers Ekoku, Euell and Goodman and defender McAllister are Injured.

C Palace v Southampton Last years no fixture

Shipperly 5 Davies 10 Palace could welcome back striker Dyer and Shipperley but wingback Smith and Italians Lombardo and Padovano are doubtful with injury. Edworthy is suspended. Southampton have Ostenstad, who has not started a game for more than two months, on standby to return in place of Davies who is doubtful because of a thigh injury. Midfielder Slater is available for the first time in three weeks.

Derby v Newcastle Leading scorer

hamstring but Danish defender Laursen is still under treatment tor a knes injury. Newcastis look certain to be without Albert and ekipper Lee. Albert injured his hamstring against Manchester Unit-ed last week while Lee has been struggling for a month with a calf injury

Liverpool v Leeds

him out of the last two Premiership matches. Carragher will stand

Man Utd v Everton Last year; 2-2 Leading scorer

United hoss Alex Ferguson seems certain to stick with the squad that travelled to Newcastle. May is having treatment on a knas injury. For Everton, Williamson could be back after an ankle problem kept him out at Leicester last Saturday. Duncan Ferguson completes his three-match ban while Bilic still has three more games to go. Watson (knee) and Speed (ankle) are doubtful starters.

Sheff Wed v Blackburn

Di Canio 9 Wednesday have skipper Atherton back from suspension but record signing Di Canio starts a two-match ban and fellow Italian Car-bone is likely to replace him. Blackburn striker Sutton is available after a one-match ban. Young Irish striker Duff or winger Wilcox

will be demoted to the substitutes' bench to make way for Sut-

West Ham v Coventry

ton. Hendry faces a late fitness test after a virus.

West Ham have received clearance to enable French goalkeeper Lama to join the squad. Australian winger Lazaridis is backafter international duty. Coventry striker Dublin is likely to line up at centre-back again alongside Shaw. Breen, Williams and Bur-rows are suspended, McAllister and Salako are on the long-term injury fist and now Nilsson (ankle) and Hall (flu) are doubtful.

Fitzpatrick steers Australia into final

Australia 123-7 India 104-9 Australia won by 19 runs

Australia's women cricketers claimed a place in the World Cup final, against either England or New Zeland, when they defeated India in New Delhi nn Christmas Eve.

It was an impressive victory after the Indians, with a fine spell of bowling, had managed to restrict the three times world champions to a modest 123 for 7 after wining the toss and putting them to bat. The Australian captain, Be-

linda Clark, raised a valuable 66run opening partnership with Joanne Broadbent, with the left-handed Karen Rolton being the other major contributor to the score. The Indians, who seemed to

have total control of the match, after the Australian innings. failed to capitalise on their advantage and quickly lost control of the game after four quick run-

Despite Chandrakanta Ahir's der collapsed in front of the Aus-covery from a stomach injury.

tralian bowling attack and India managed to make only 104 runs losing nine wickets.

The unfortunate run-out of their captain, Purnima Rau, when the Indians were on 70, triggered a slump from which her team-mates could not re-

The Australian pace bowler, Cathryn Fitzpatrick, who took three wickets for 18 runs in seven overs was named woman of the match.

The day's play had started 135 minutes late because of heavy fog and the match was reduced to 32 overs each. However, India, who were unable to bowl their overs in the stipulated time were peoalised and lost two overs of their batting allocation.

• Glenn McGrath, the Australian fast bowler, will be given until just before start of play to prove his fitness for the first Test against South Africa which starts in Melbourne today. Mc-Grath, regarded as vital to Australia's hopes of beating the tourists, yesterday underwent the latest in a series of fitness valiant 48 runs, India's middle or- tests this week to assess his re-

RUGBY UNION

Phillips quits as Bridgend face up to humiliation

John Phillips has quit as Bridthey were humbled 24-21 by the village side Garndiffaith in the fourth round of the Swalec Cup last Saturday. This humiliating defeat followed closely on crushing Premier Divisioo losses against the league leaders, Swansea, and the champions, Pontypridd.

Derrick King, the Bridgend chairman, said: "Following the exit of Bridgend from the Swalec Cup and in the light of a number of defeats in the National League, John Phillips has tendered his resignation.

"After discussing the matter with Mr Phillips the directors have very reluctantly accepted the resignation and he will be leaving the service of the club immediately."

The team now face two vital matches on successive Saturdays - Ebbw Vale tomorrow followed by Newport - and King said that he believed they were "possibly the two most crucial games in the history of steps in for his first league apthe club".

The coach, Steve Brown, the gend's director of rugby after backs coach, Alan Donovan, and the former Welsh and British Lion full-hack JPR Williams will take temporary charge of the team.

"It really is a nightmare -- I never thought we would go into the Christmas period with this sort of situation," said

Leicester Tigers have been able to select an all-international pack of forwards for today's trip to table-topping Saracens,

The return of the No 8 Eric Miller from Ireland duties makes it possible, with Lewis Moody reverting to the heach for the Allied Dunbar Premiership match.

The stand-off Joel Stransky returns to the Leicester side after his rib injury, with Fiji's Waisale Serevi switching to scrum-haif. But the England centre Will Greenwood is ruled out with a shoulder injury and the 23-year-old James Overend pearance of the season.

SPORTING DIGEST

NBA: Cleveland 99 Deltas 85, Boston 102 Charlotte 96, Chicago 94 LA Clippers 89, San Antonio 91 Indiana 79, Portland 93 Sacra-mento 82, Minnesota 112 Seattle 103, Gold-Cricket The one-day match between Sri Lan-

ha and India in Indore was abandoned after just three overs yesterday because of a dangerous and dry wicket. Sri Lanka has made 17 for 1 before the game was called off. WOMEN'S WORLD CUP Social final (New

*8 Clark low b Shatt. M Goszid b Bhait O Megno st Jein b Devid ... C Meson st Jein b Devid ... as (thi, nbi, wil) Fail: 1-86, 2-80, 3-83, 4-88, 5-113, 6-121, 7-121

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tA Jain b Magno A Chopra c Jones b Fitzpatrick...... C Ahir Ibw b Fitzpatrick P Rau run out ... S Herikrishnen run out ... S Shaw run out P Bhatt b Fitzpatric N Desviid not out ...

Pat: 1-8, 2-34, 3-70, 4-72, 5-75, 6-93, 7-103, 8-104, 9-104, The Essex aft-rounder Graham Naoi-

SOUTH AFRICA SCHOOLS
J Myburgh low b Logan
M Lump run out

G P Swann c Lumb b Rudolph ...

Bowling: Creed 10-0-57-2, R van Wyk 8-0-44-1; Limb 6-0-38-0; Bodi 7-0-42-3; Petersen 10-0-39-1; Rudolph 9-0-42-2

Fall: 1-27 2-68 3-132 4-181 5-194 6-194 7-201 8-213 9-216

Bowling: Logan 4-1-28-1: Franks 3-0-32-0: Napier 10-1-43-4; Swann 10-0-45-0: Powell 9-0-45-3: Schafield 85-1-32-1 SNOW REPORT

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Yugoslavia will face fellow World Cup qualifiers Nigeria in a warm-up match in May, Branko Bukatovic, the president of the Yugoslav Football Association, announced yesterday.

Cort 6

Marcelo Sales, the 23-year-old Chilean striker previously linked with a move to Manchester United and rumored to to Manchester United and rumored to be on his way to Europe in a multi-milion pound transfer, will remain in Argentina with River Plate until after the World Cup, according to his agent, Gustavo Mascardi. Salas reportedly favours a move to Italy. Milan and Parma are believed to be among those vying for his signature.

Middlesbrough striker Chris Freestone has joined Second Division Northampton in a £75,000 deat. The 26-year-old Freestone has spent three weeks on

Freestone has spent three weeks on loan with the Cobblers and scored twice against Swansea lest Saturday. Stoke have signed the 29-year-old for-mer Derby striker Merco Gabbadhi from the Greek side Ethnikos on a month's trat. He joins the squad for to-day's match against Sheffield United

Olympic Games

14

The number of days remaining for Scotland football fans to apply to the Scotland Travel Club for tickets for next year's World Cup finals in France. Fifa have not yet confirmed how many tickets Scotland will be allocated but the SFA say they need to know the travel club's requirements by 9 January at the latest.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

3 0 unless stated FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Arsonal v Leicester (12.0) Aston Ville v Tottenham (5.0).... Bolton v Barnsley (12.0) . Chelsea v Wimbledon (12

Sheffield Wed v Blackburn _ West Ham v Coventry (12.0) NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE

uth v Fulham

Huli v Chester...,...... Lincoln v Rotherhum ...

Scunthorpe v Notia County forquay v Swansea (12.15)

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

nham v Yeovii (1.0) ... Order v Welling (12.0)
Geleshead v Halifax (2.0)
Hednesford v Kettering
Hereford v Kidderminster (12.0)

lpswich v Birmingham Nottingham Forest v Swind outh v Queen's Park Rangers ort v Port Vale Stoke v Shef leid Utd Sunderland v Bradford City. SECOND DIVISION uth v Gillingham (12.0). Brentiord v Southend (12.0) ... Bristol City v Milwall (12.0) ...

Australia largest sporting stadium, the Melbourne Crickes Ground, will host 12 matches of the Olympic Games football tournement in 2000. More than 30,000 laris watched Australia play kan at the ground last morth and the Victorian state premier, Jeff Kennett, said that was a "sealing point" for hosting Olympic matches there. Kennett said he hoped that the Australian team could play the opening match of the Sumley v Chesterfiel Carlisle v Blackpool . Luten v Northampton York v Drimsby _ could play the opening match of the series at the MCG. The final will be played in the main Olympic Stadium.

TODAY'S NUMBER

Solhul Borough (1130); Racing Club Warwick v Evesham; Shepshed Dynamo v
Baldenal (120); Sourbridge v Biston (1130);
Wisbech v Grantham (1130). Southern Division: Baldock v Cheimsford; Bashley v
Waymouth; Clevedon v Weston-super-Mare
(101); Certodon v Beston-super-Mare
(101); Certodon v Beston-super-Mare
(101); Certodon v Weston-super-Mare
(101); Newport (1040) v Fareham (101;
Torbridge v Margate (1130); Waterlowille v
Havam (120); Witney v Circnosster; Yate v
Trowbridge.
UNIBOND LEAGUE Presmler Division:
Gainsborough Trinsty v Boston Utd; Marina
v Winsford; Radciffle Borough v Hyde Utd.
First Division: Congleton v Withon Ablon;
Matlock v Buxton.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division (110); Bedington v
Morpeth; Billingham Town v Billingham Synthonia; Northallerion v Guesborough; South
Sheids v Janrow.

Sheida v Jarrow.
INTERLINK EDPRESS MIDLANO ALLIANCE (ntd: Bridghorth v Shifnat, Chaselown
v Pelsett: Helesowen Harriers v Oktbury;
Krig's Norton v Boldmere St Michaels; Krypersley v Rocester, Pershore v Stratford;
Rushali v Blownich; Sandwell v West Midlands Police; Stapenhill v Barwell; Wedneafield: v Willenhall. field v Willenhall. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Evnesbury v St Neots Premier Division: Eynesbury v St Neots (110); Stamford v Mirriees Blackstone. UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Arundel v Littlehampton (11.0); Burgess Hill v Hassocks (11.0); Pagham v Selsey (12.0).

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-vision: Hythe v Folkestone Invicta (11.15). YEARD THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP turse v Easteigh (110); Bournemouth FC v Winhome (10); Newbury v Thatchem (30); Romsey v Christchurch (120); Totton v BAT

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division (110): Clacton v Harwich & Parke-ston; Fakerinam v Watton, Great Yarmouth SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier DI vialon: Bellymena v Coleraine; Cliftonville v Crusaders; Glentoren v Linfield; Portadown v Glensvon, First Division: Carrock Rangers v Bangor. LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Rhevader (230); Caemarion v Porthmadog

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division; Bohemians v Deny Oty Rugby Union ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP One: Saracers v Leicester (2D). CLUZ MATCH: West Hartlepool v Hartle-

Rugby League v Wekefield Trnity (1130); Leeds v Helfax (1130); Wigan v St Helens (20).

OR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Atherstone v Nuneaton (110), Bath City v
Merthyr Tydfil, Bromsgrove v Halesowen
Town (110): Cawley v Hatengs, Dorchester
v Saksbury: Forest Green Rovers v Gloucester Gresley Rovers v Burton Albon (1130);
Rothwell v Ning's Lynn (230), Sittingbourne
v Cambridge City; St Leonards Stamcroft
v Ashford Worcester v Terhworth (1130); Brackey v Raunds (120); Corby v Reston;
Hinckley Utd v Sutton Cotdfield; Moor
Green v Redditch (1130); Paget Rangers v Ice hockey EXPRESS CUP: Sheffield Steelers v Notting-harn Panthers (730). Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester v London Leopards (30)2\

re enjector (2:50); Caemerlon v Porthredog; Caerses v Newtown (2:50); Cerraes Ynys Mon v Bengor City (2:30); Finit v Connenis Cusy (100); Hauerlondwest v Ebbw Vale (2:30); Finyl v Conney (2:30); Welshpool v TNS Liensantfinald (2:30).

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Ferguson cheered by United's year of youthful maturity

Manchester United's players were full of the Christmas spirit yesterday - but not in the alcoholic sense. Points not pints are the priority at Old Trafford these days.

As he watched his team prepare for the rigours of the coming months, Alex Ferguson talked to Glenn Moore about the past year's success - and of his ambition to field a team of teetollers.

Manchester United's benevolent dictator looked out of his office window yesterday morning and chuckled. This was not because of a sadistic delight at baving dragged his players away from their families to train in the rain on Christmas Day morning. but out of pleasure at their re-

"The young ones are beating the old buggers." he said barely suppressing his mirth. "They are all dancing about hecause usually the old boys beat them.

No signs of pressure at the champions theo, and no wonder after the year they have had. Discounting the Coca-Cola Cup jas United dn) they go into 10day's match with Everton at Old Trafford having lost just eight games, and won 31, out of 50 played. Not bad for a year's work even if two of the defeats, hame and away to Borussia Dortmund, still hurt,

Would I have settled for the year we've had last January? Oh yes," said Ferguson. "We won the title and that's always the beall and end-all for me. It would have been a bonus if we had got to the European Cup final but we had the experience of getting to the semi-final.

"The highlight for me, apart maturity of the young players and the team as a whole, and the Giggs and [David] Beckham, enough, they come again." you look forward to matches.

"Teddy has combined very,



Going for the hat-trick Ferguson is aiming for his third successive title - The one advantage we have is that we have been there so many times now

Photograph: Fotosports International

Book at Manchester City, and Teddy, coming to us at 31, has absolutely grasped it.

"It took him a while to get from winning the League, is the used to it. The games come thick and fast at the start of the season and every game is a cup way [Teddy] Sheringham fitted tie for us. Henning Berg was the in. He has the vision you need same, he hit a plateau. That in blg games. With players like happens. Cantona did that [Paul] Scholes and him. [Ryan] when he came. If they are good

Another player worthy of special mention in United's very well with Andy Cole. He year is Peter Schmeichel, his exis an unselfish player. He will lay cellence is often taken for granta pass on even if he has a chance ed until highlighted by of scoring, like [Eric] Cantona performances like that at Newwould. He works really hard for castle bst Sunday. "He's magus. Some players get a chance nificent," said Ferguson, "His late in their career, like Tony last save at Newcastle was even

two years ago. He's not dropped his level at all. He's still amhitious and that's important."

3-2 victory over Juventus on 1 October, "That opened the door this season. We never start the season that well and performance against Kosice had been economical, careful and patient, but there was no acceleration. Against Juventus they were magnificent.

The wins at Antield were also major results because the games against Liverpool are massive now. It may change, but

better than those he made there in my time here the derhy matches against City don't assume the proportions of Liverpool games.

One match stands out. The The worst match is no surprise. It's Europe again and the tie with Dortmund, "That semifinal was a killer, no doubt. It was not that we played badly but this time was no different, but we let ourselves down with the gust. that performance brought the finishing. I keep thinking about team on to another level. The the chances we had time and tongue only half in cheek.

Roy Keane's injury was another low point. "Not so much for us as for the lad's career." said Ferguson with customary paternalism. "To me he is the best all-round player in Britain.

But we won't rush him. He will be given the full remedial rehabilitation before he comes back. The operation was a complete success. He's looking terrific, he's getting itchy feet now hut that's not a problem for me to slow that down, t'll he happy just to have him back in An-

"The strange thing is it solved a problem for me. It was time again...the Germans are hecoming a real headache getlucky hastards," he added, ting Scholes in the team; he had come on in leaps and bounds. You would not want it to happen that way but Keane's injury solved it as he and [Nicky] Butt have fitted in perfectly together.

United were doing light

training yesterday "to maintain the momentum" and keep the players loose in the limb. Once they would have brought their players in on Christmas Day just to ensure they did not overdo it on Christmas Eve.

That is not so much the case now. There are still a counumbers are declining. This, believes Ferguson, is a consequence of the foreign influx.

"I think there was a lot of scepticism when these players arrived, but there is a realisation that they have benefited the game. The way they prepare is an example, they look after

themselves. They don't drink."

There is a theory, still pop-

ular at some clubs, that a night

on the tiles together fosters

team spirit, but it is not one that United, whose team ethic is outstanding, appear to subscribe to. "I've always been against playwill happen. It may not be in my time but it will happen. I've got about seven players who don't

drink at all in this squad. If you drink it affects your fitness." A Christmas wish? "I wish linesmen would get it right. I don't think they understand the offside law well enough or

SCOTTISH PREVIEW

the game but too often a player is called offside and they're not. They should give the attacker the benefit. Linesmen should be brought to book. They are part of the entertainment industry."

Among Ferguson's Christmas presents were a pair of binoculars from his wife, Cathy. They are for when he goes horse racing but many will feel. they may be more useful to United's challengers so they can keep track of them as, with their traditional New Year surge, they disappear over the horizon. Needless to say, Ferguson does not agree.

"No way, it is a hard league to win. There are a lot of games coming up. We may get involved in the FA Cup and will hopefully go to the death in Europe. That's a major season which stretches the capacity and endurance of your players. The continual demands means they will make mistakes, everyone will in that situation, so we're going to lose a game or two, or

United lost twice in the second half of last season yet still came from five points behind Liverpool at this stage last year, and Ferguson insisted: "So it's impossible to suggest that the league can be won in December or January. Someone may go on a run and get confident, Chelsea are looking strong at the moment, you can expect Arsenal and Liverpool in go oo some sort of a run, and Newcastle.

"The one advantage we have is that we have been there so many times now, Ryan Giggs is 24 and he has four championship medals and could have six. There is a psychological factor to losing, especially in March or April and players like him can put a result in perspective."

So, increasingly these days, is the public view of Ferguson. The Angry Fergie image is being tempered by respect. "I think it is changing. People were writing about me before they knew me. They see me watching a game and say I'm dour. There is no ers drinking, and I'm always perception of you as a person. I ple of enthusiastic imbihers at thinking of ways of getting a may be wiser, more experienced Old Traillord but there, and else-team that doesn't drink," Fer- and I've mellowed in terms of my where in the Premiership, the guson said. "Eventually that temper but I'm no different to how I was 25 years ago.

Even so, it is hard to imagine even the mellow Ferguson dressing up in a Santa Claus suit for a tabloid as one of his predecessors did this week. Anything Everton get from his team at Old Trafford inday will have to be earned.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PREVIEW

Robson seeking inspiration from the fans

The Middleshrough manager of Christmas presents after sign-Bryan Robson is looking to the club's fans as his team aim to rebound from last weekend's defeat at Manchester City.

The Nationwide League First Division leaders visit Huddersfield today, and Robson said: "The fans have been a terrific help with their overwhelming support. "It's vital we boonee back

from our defeat at Maine Road when we go to Huddersfield. We didn't compete in the opening 20 minutes last Saturday and paid the penalty. We must be fully-committed from the start against Huddersfield as they have shown improved form recently. There will be a sell-out crowd and I hope my players will get back to winning ways."

The Huddersfield midfield player Paul Dalton will hope to add a vienery over Born to his list

ing a new two-and-a-half year extension to his current contract. His manager, Peter Jackson, said: "Paul has the ability to carry this club into the millennium.

"I firmly believe that judging by the taleot he's shown since I arrived here, he has wasted his career so far. He's been fantastic and deserves his new contract. But it's vital he makes the most of the next few years both for the club and himself."

Denis Smith, who was confirmed as the new West Bromwich Albion manager on Christmas Eve. is in charge of his new side for the first time for today's visit to Reading. The former Oxford United manager is Alhion's third manager in 12 months, but said: "I've signed a three-year contract and it is my intention to stay with Albion for this period.

"If Albion do as well in the initely go close."

second half of the season as they have in the first I will be delighted - we will be pushing for promotion. I've had only one season as manager in the Premier League and I would like to take

Alhion into the top division." Smith has agreed to work with Albion's current enaches John Trewick and Cyrille Regis, "I will have to rely upon their judgement for the first few games until I get to know the players. " he said.

The Sunderland manager. Peter Reid is confident his side will extend their unbeaten t2-match run, including four successive wins, to keep in touch with Middlesbrough. Sunderland play Bradford today, and Reid said: "We're on a nill and my lads are extremely confident. Promotion is not over by a long way - we'll def-

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

to the world of non-League football. Boxing Day is derby day. While the peculiarities of the Football League fixture computer and police restrictions mean that some Nationwide clubs have to make ludicrous journeys today (Birmingham to toswich. Futham to Pty-

neighbours.

Last season the biggest Boxing Day non-League crowd was at Agehorough, where 0.081 fans watched Bromsgrove Rovers heat Kidderminster Harriers. Rovers' relegation from the GM Vauxhalt Conference has put an end to that Worcestershire derby, so Harriers will face a different foe at nexin today.

Harriers desperate for some local cheer Kidderminster make the short trip to Edgar Street to re-

new their rivalry with Hereford United, Harriers began 1997 15 points clear at the top of the Conference, and they still feet aggrieved that it was Macelesfield and not them who replaced Hereford in the League. This. mouth), there is no such monterm their form has been poor sense in the semi-professional - only five clubs are beneath game. Throughout the country local rivals will do battle with litvive their fortunes. tle sign of goodwill towards

improve. The signs are there that we're turning things round." The sides meet again at Agghorough on New Year's

them in the table - and they are desperate for a win today to re-"It's a tough game." Graham Allner, Harriers' manager, said. "but Hereford can't be happy with their home form. If we work hard our fortunes should

Elsewhere in the Conference. Stalybridge Celtie's new

managerial team, Mel Sterland and Imre Varadi, face a Cheshire derby at Northwich Victoria today for their first game in charge. while Morecambe against Southport will draw a hig crowd to the Lancushire coast.

In the Dr Martens League Bromsgrove entertain Halesowen Town this morning, while Nuncaton go to Atherstone and Burron Albion make the short journey to Gresley Rovers.

Local passions will be just as stirred in the lower leagues. On Teesside, Billingham Town take on Billingham Synthonia this morning, while tomorn ow Sudbury Town play host to Sudbury Wanderers in Sulfolk and, at noon in Somerset, Street have a league game against their neighbours. Glastonbury, for the first time since the 1954-55

Jackson ready to complete his remarkable recovery

striker, returns to McDiarmid Park tomorrow - a ground that is etched in his memory. It was there in August he made his final League appearance for needed brain surgery.

Jackson, who scored to that 2-tt victory against St Johnstone, then became ill with a violent headache in the run-up to the Uefa Cup match against Tirol 72 hours later. However, he has made a remarkable recovery and is back in the firstteam squad, more than grateful to be wearing the green and white.

"It is incredible when you think about the chain of events since that match against St Johnstone." he said, "We won the match at McDiarmid Park well

Darren Jackson, the Scotland with two good goals from Henrik [Larsson] and me. But three days later I was in hospital facing brain surgery. You can't get much more of a contrast.

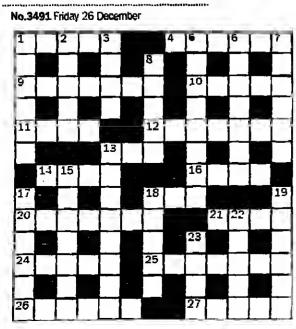
"Thankfully things went well Celtic hefore he was told he and here I am playing again which is hrilliant. A lot of people have said I am ahead of schedule but I feel fine and I am really enjoying just being part of .: things again.

The leaders, Raogers, face the one team who have beaten them in the league this season, Dundee United, who were 2-1. winners at Tannadice in Octoher. While the champions will he favourites. Rangers' only damestic home defeat also came against United, a 1-0 Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final

- Ken Gaunt

GAMES

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Map (5) Awaken from sleep
- Wash hair (7) Larceny (5) Requirement (4) Small marsupial (7) 13 Attention (3)
- Communist theoretician (4) Clever (4) Hair styling aid (3) Ruler (7)
- 21 Frank (4) Breed of dog (5) Dramatic scene (7) Tarry (6) Female undergar-

DOWN

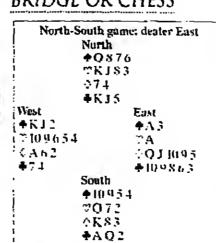
- Gambling establishment (6) Conscious (5)
 - Variety (4) Logical (8) tmplement (7) Bury (6) Benefactor (5) Put into use (8)

Pain-killer (7)

17 Drawing instrument 18 Jar (5) 19 Excessively (6) 22 Implore (5) 23 Aid (4)

Solution to Wednesday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 7 Taried, 8 Answer (Taxi-dancer), 10 Tel Avir. 11 Earls, 12 Lady, 13 Pride, 17 Globe, 18 Barn, 22 Bulley, 23 Darling, 24 Annoyed, 25 Acada, DOWN: 1 Stately, 2 Exclude, 3 Heavy, 4 Unready, 5 Swarm, o Fresh, 9 Everytody, 14 Streper, 15 Tapacca, to Anagram, 19 U-tver, 20 Flour, 21 Trace.

BRIDGE OR CHESS



"To protect or not to protect," as the Bard might have said. East opened t . South passed, and West bid 1 7. East rehid 24. West hid 20, which was followed by two passes. It was a pairs event, and now South

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wondered if he was being talkerfour of something. Nohody had bid spodes or suggested No-trimps, so there seemed a fair chance that his partner (a) held some

spades and (h) was not bereft of values South decided to protect with 24 - not a success, for West began with a smart double, and the defence was merciless West led #7 and, after winning in hand declarer made the ill-padged play of a small trump to dummy's queen. Fast took his ace and cashed the "A to which West followed with the ten, a clear McKenney for a diamond return, also making it clear that he was not now angling for a club rull. Fast doubtly switched to the 2 D and was allowed to hold the trick. South ducked the "I which followed, but West was on target when he overlook with the A and gave partner the beart rull. Two trump tricks later, South was rucfully writing "minus 5(K)" on his score sheet.

DAILY CHOICE-

Show: Chicks with Flicks, King's Head, London NI (0171-226 1916) 7pm & 9pm "My head is in a spin, my feet don't touch the gn und When you are near to me my head goes round and round ... " If you were around in the Seventies, you cannot fail to recognise the lyrics: 10 Kelly-Marie's sensational one-hit wonder "It Feels Like I'm in Love". In her near legendary wardrobe, Kelly-Marie did for the zipup space suit what Audrey Hepburn did for the little black cocktail number. According to lamed trichologist and vocalist Jackie Clune, she also had "the bastardised brush-out flick"-Unne's exacting examination of the tresses and stresses of Seventies sirens, an all-singing brush with hair- and song-stylists, is in the running for the year's most ridiculously enjoyable show. Social historians should book immediately, not to mention anyone who wants to know the true stury behind the Nolan Sisters and their litlle-known involvement in the poll tax riots.

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TODAY'S PICK

The first the state of the stat passionate documentary from the Under Coppen spent one season with the Lud-The state of the s horses and hounds in full flight. Close up terrier and revolver.

The Hunt (9pm BBC2) With the and it's less pretty, of course. Coppen current debate about fox-hunting gener- doesn't shy away from the more disating more heat than light, this fine, dis- tressing images - a retired hound being shot (after a lifetime of pulling foxes to the Sun strand is a breath of fresh air. Nick bits, they can't be kept as pets), farm animals being skinned (a secondary, low Hunt, one of the 200 or so in Britain. money-raising role for the hunt), as well His film captures the daily hard work of as the fate of the fox, the majority of organisation, as well as the beauty of the which go to earth - finished off by spade,

Before They Were Famous !! (9.40pm BBCI) Enjoyable sequel to Angus Deayton's trawl of pre-stardom footage. Highlights this time include a young Tony Blair tosing his deposit, Slade as a bizarre bovver-boy folk combo, Cosualty's Charlie as a teenage pop star, Jonathan Ross in a Rice Krisples advert, and, best of all, Martin Clunes as a very Eddie Izzardish Dr Who villaln.



Clark Gable in Gone with the Wind: 7.10pm C5

THE FILM

Gone with the Wind (7.10pm C5) "Frankly my dear..." Go on, lip-sync your way through what is probably the most popular movie of all time, as legendary for its making as for what ended up on the screen. David O Selznick's production of Margaret Mitchell's Civil War epic, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, came with a long list of victims - notably director George Cukor, who was replaced by Victor Fleming (who in turn had a nervous breakdown). Fleming's sequences may be more prosaic than Cukor's, but at least he got the damned thing finished.

ment with The Death ni mitter ihem a 1 BBC1 and it plants

6.30 Children's BBC: The Greedysaurus Gang (A) (S) (856-1607). 6.35 William's Wish Wellingtons IR) (S) (8563978). 6.40 Bump's Christmas Story (R) (S) (2749201). 6.50 Spol's Magical Christmas (R) (S) (6021065). **7.20** Poddington Peas (R) (S) (2900171). **7.25** Toy Symphony (R) (S) (2966152). 7.50 White Christmas (R) (6745317). 8.15 Eek the Cat (S) (9626539). 8.40 Sweet Valley High (R) (8906607). 9.00 North and South -on Tour (S) (1769626). 9.25 Casper Classics (Rt (6580220). 9.40 Teletubbies (S) (9833591). Film Superman III (Richard Lester 1983 US). Christopher Reeve has to deal with Robert Vaughan's plans for world domination in the heavily jokey second sequel. Richard Pryor livens matters up considerably as the computer boffin arm-twisted into Vaughan's netarious

schemings - coming up with a digitally-generated formula for kryptonite (70602607). 12:10 Paul McCartney's Standing Stone: the Documentary. Follows the creation of Maclormance at the Royal Albert Hall (3) (730052688).

News; Weather; Local News (7) (50052688).

Li0 Neighbours (S) (7) (73112775). ca's new symphonic work through its first per

1.30 Disneytime. Keith Chegwin and Jayna Middlemiss present the cartoon clips (S) (T) (4912355), 2.10 Hook (Steven Spielberg 1991 US). Holly-wood's perennial man-child Steven Spielberg would seem to have been a natural for updating the JM Barrie classic, Peter Pan, but Robin Williams, as Peter, and Dustin Hoffman (as Captain Hook) give curiously flat performances. The screenplay gets lost in New Ageisms and the direction gets lost in the expensive - and, let's not be mean - impressive sets. It's all about corporate worksholic Williams getting back in touch with his inner child (47978572).

4.25 The Pink Panther (R) (3815881), 4.50 Final Score (S) (6346317), 5.10 News; Weather; Local News (5733715). 5.25 Neighbours (6822442). 5.50 Big Break. Snooker game show takes a panto theme with Jim Davidson as Peter Pan and guest star Wendy Richard as Tinkerbell. In their

dreams... (S) (T) (544404).
6.20 [am] Beethoven's 2nd (Rod Danie) 1993 US). Or, this time there are puppies. Sopplly e Technologia Technologia enjoyable St Bernard seque), with Charles Grodin competing with the shaggy mutt for audience sympathy (S) (1476442).
7.40 EastEnders. Tiflany pushes Grant too far. (S)

(1) (312713). Blankety Blank, Lily Savage takes over the moth-eaten game show. (S) (516862). 8.40 News; Weather (1) (780510).

9.00 The Vicar of Dibley. Christmas special for Dawn French's temale vicar, with Alice and Hugo's relationship to the fore (S) (T) (933133). 9.40 Before They Were Famous IL See Today's

Pick, above (S) (T) (203930).

10.15 Film True Lies (James Cameron 1994 US). Arnold Schwarzenegger is a secret agent so hush-hush that even his wife (Jamie Lee Curis) doesn't know what he does in this casually racist and misogynist (check out the scene where Amie interrogates his wife) James Bond pastiche. Big bangs. Big yuck (36537317). 12.35 Unplugged - Oasis, Liam had a cold, so Noe) went solo in this acoustic set of the boys'

greatest hits (R) (S) (T) (4989878). 1.20 Film Carry On Girls (Gerald Thomas 1973 UK). Businessman Sld James infuriates local terrinists (led by an unlikely Joan Sims) by a staging a beauty contest. No Kenneth Williams or Charles Hawtrey in this one, alas (Followed by Weather) (7827783). To 2.45am.

BBC2

7.15 The Phil Silvers Show (R) (2968510). 7.40 Film Gold Diggers of 1933 (Mervyn LeRay 1933 US) Funny, good-natured backstage musical and Depression period piece, with Ginger Rogers singing "We're In the Money", and Dick Powell, Ruby Keeler, Joan Blondell and 60 cho-

rus girls (at one stage wired up with lights) choreographed by Busby Berkeley (18214688).

Film Ofiver Twist (David Lean 1948 UK). With a terrifying Robert Newton as Bill Sikes, Alec Guinness as a controversial Fagin (his portrayal caused trouble with Jewish groups in America, and the film's release there was delayed several years) and Kay Walsh as Nancy - this often suffers unfairly in comparison with Lean's Great Expectations. Expressionistically designed and lit, and with a real sense of decay

and evil (76554065).

11.05 Film Thoroughly Modern Millie (George Roy Hill 1967 US). Frenetic, over-busy musical spoof, set in the 1920s, with Julie Andrews as the fortune-hunting flapper. With Mary Tyler Moore, Beatnee Utile and James Fox (47151030). Christmas in Vienna. Placido Domingo and

Sarah Brightman lead the festivities in the Austrian capital (S) (2936775). Everything to Play For. Goes to Russia to uncover the origins of Shostakovich's Leningred Symphony (S) (45676336).

2.50 Salome. Catherine Malfitano takes the title role in Luc Bondy's production of Richard Strauss's opera, recorded at the Royal Opera House (S)

(97537152).

4.4S Film Far Country (Anthony Mann 1955 US).

James Stewart takes his herd of cattle to Alaska In this handsomely photographed yarn - one of director Anthony Mann's series of acclaimed westerns which helped revitalise the genre in the 1950s (T) (14058249).

6.20 Land of the Tiger. In the last of the series, Valmik Thapar travels to the raintorests of Assam, Southern India's Western Ghals, and across the seas to Sri Lanka (S) (T) (304510). 730 A Christmas Dickens. Simon Callow reads Mrs Limper's Lodgings, which, apparently, was as popular in Dickens's time as A Christmas

Carol (S) (T) (939775). 7.45 The Royal Ballet. A double bill of performances by the Royal Ballet, recorded in July shortly before the closure of the Royal Opera House. The company performs George Balanchine's Symphony in C and William Forsythe's Steptext (S) (725065).

9.00 Under the Sun: The Hunt. See Today's Pick, above (S) (7929404). 10.10 Steptoe and Son Christmas Special. Sea-sonal episode from 1974. Harold plans a

Christmas in Majorca (RI (T) (838775). 10.55 Stella Street. More from John Sessions, Phil Cornwell and Peter Richardson's enjoyably silly spool in which movie stars like Jack Nicholson

and Michael Came live in Surbiton (5) (338133). TLOS Film The Browning Version (Mike Figgis 1994 UK). Albert Finney gives a performance of considerable pathos as Terrence Rattigan's about-to-rating schoolmaster, re-evaluating his life as his wife |Greta Scacchi - an unlikely spouse for e dusty teacher, it must be said) carries on with chemistry master Matthew Modine, and he is asked not to make a speech on Speech Day, Also with Julian Sands and Michael Gambon (S) (611423).

12.35 The Amazing Colossal Man (Bert I

Gordon 1957 US). An army officer exposed to atomic blast grows into a giant and attacks Las Vegas (Then Weatherview) (3902-185) To 2.00am

6.00 GMTV (2254084). 9.25 The Treasure Seekers (R) |S| (T) (1757881).

9.55 Chadren's ITV: Tirry Toon Adventures (S) (1248591). 10.20 Percy the Park Keeper (S)

10.50 Film Freaky Friday (Melanie Mayron 1995 US). Shelley Long swaps bodies with her leenage daughter for the day – all courtesy of

the sort magic talisman that this feebla remake could have done with (S) (1) (56604341). Countdown to Tomorrow (S) (4305997). 1.20 News Headlines; Weather (T) (33435930).

Film Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (Enc. Radomski 1993 US) Animated Batman from the

Dark Knight series - the gloomy 1980s comic books credited with "saving" the caped crusader from the legacy of 1960s camp (SI (T) (995) 268). 2.40 Film The Sword in the Stone (Wolfgang therman 1963 US). TH White's magical

Arthurian story (S) (T) (1187249).

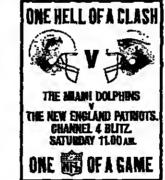
4.10 The Centerville Ghost. Ian Richardson leads in this lavish version of Oscar Wilde's comic ghost story about an American tamily who move into a haunted English castle (S) (T) (9741602) 5.40 News; Weather (T) (194643).

5.50 Emmerdale (S) (T) (539572). 6.20 Firm Forever Young (Sleve Miner 1992 US) A 1930s test pilot has his body cryogenically trozen by ahead-of-his-time bottin buddy George Wendt, and then wakes up in 1992. Jamie Lee Curlis is the modern gal who helps out. Fun, up to a point (S) (T) (70108688). 8.20 Coronation Street, Kevin has a shock for Natalie (T) (531171).

8.50 News; Weekend Weather. (T) (221442). 9.00 Dame Edna Kisses It Better. Elle Macpher. son, Cliff Richard, David Seaman, Roll Harris, Melinda Messenger and Lord Archer look a ripe bunch of guest victims (S) (T) (1317).

10.00 Tim Dances with Wolves (Kevin Costner 1990 US). Simplistic, hugely self-confident western epic, mocked for its Sloux subtitles and barely competent script and direction, but which cleaned up at the box office and at the Oscars. Costner is the disillusioned Civil War sokiler who goes native American - the support boasts the likes of Floyd Red Crow Westerman and Nathan Lee Chasing His Horse (St (7) (3590881). 1.20 Box Office America (4113263). 1.50 Baywatch (406911). 3.35 Pem Please Turn Over (Gerald Thomas

1960 UK). A teenage girl writes an embarrassing roman a clef peopled by relatives and neighbours in this gentle farce helmed by Carry On director Thomas. With Leslie Phillips, Joan Sims, Charles Hawtrey and Lionel Jeffries (8700553). Collins and Maconie's Movie Chib (R) (S) (3455027). 5.30 Children's ITV: Talespin (S) (6083553) 5.5S News (82436932). To 6.00em



CHANNEL4

6:30 Ovide (R) (S)):4386959) 6:35 Madeline (R) (6002930). 7:00 The Babysitters' Club (R) (9018862). 7.35 Two Stupid Dogs (R) (S) (8323626). 8.00 The Big Breakfast (17688). 10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Moming: Happy Days (R) (10775). 10.30 Zig and Zag's Big Moming:

Morning Line (S) (9639572).

Fin Jack the Giant Killer (Nathan Juran 1961 US). Children's tantasy adventure, set in "Ancient England", about a giant who is sent to kidnap a king's daughter. With Kerwin Mathews, Judi Meredith and Torm Thatcher - and, no, I haven't heard of any of them either (7) (23501930).

1.00 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park and Leopardstown. Including the 1.10, 1.45, 2.20 (otherwise known as the King George VI

Chese) and 2.55 races (S) (45719404).

3.15 The Land that Time Forgot (Kevin Connor 1975 US). The special effects are a lad ropey, but otherwise this is an entertaining screen version of Edgar Rice Burroughs' 1918 sci-fi varn about the survivors from a British ship sunk by a German submarine washing up on a South American island replete with dinosaurs and the like (T) (42821125).

4.55 Bewitched (7))2598274). 5.25 Light Lunch Cardigan Christmas. Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer and Ulrika Jonsson are Mel and Sue's late lunch guests (4530442). 6.30 Brookside. Ninety-minute special during which Jimmy must come to terms with the fact that his daughter is involved with Barry Grant

(S) (T) (95272997). 8.05 Film Midsummer Night's Dream (Adrian Noble 1996 UK). Filmed theatre, really, and not too smart with il, this is Adrian Noble's RSC production with Lindsay Duncan and Alex Jennings leading the cast (62318539).

10.00 Neil (Michael Apted 1994 US). Jodia

Foster gels to show off her range in this variant on Francois Truffaut's L'Enfant Sauvage. She plays a young woman who has grown up isolated in the North Carolina backwoods, away from civilisation and other people, and who speaks a mysterious language of her own. Liam Neeson and Nalasha Richardson are the anthropologist and psychologist who both want a bit of her - and, this being Hollywood, fall In love at the same time (S) (7) (60933317). 12.05 Film Le Confessional (Robert Lapage 1995 Can/UK/Fr) Scenes from Alfred Hitchcock's

1953 Quebec-set thriller I Confess (see below) are interspaced with this offbeat mystery drama about a man who returns to the city for his father's funeral. When he learns that his brother has not appeared for the ceremony, he sets out to find him. With Lothaire Bluteau (600263).

2.00 Itm I Confess (Alfred Hitchock 1953 US). Hitch at his most ponderous and portentous hindered by an almost static performance from

Montgomery Clift as the Quebec priest who must either break his confessional vows or be charged with a murder he did not commit. Anne Baxter mops his brow, and Karl Malden is the investigating cop (7) (171718).

3.45 Strange Cargo (Frank Borzage 1940 US). Strange is the word, but it's a shame it's

scheduled so late because this is the sort of lu-dicrous melodrama that Christmas was made for, Clark Gable, Ireshly escaped from Devil's Island penal colony, is helped by a furiously emoting Joan Crawford, and hindered by criminals Peter Lorre and Paul Lukas. And, in the middle o) alt this, up pops tan Hunter as the Messiah. Oh, yes (705640). To 5.45am.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (7787775). 6.30 The Wind in the Willows (63307620). 6.50 Mr Men and Little Miss (S) (30278713). 7.00 Wimzie's House (4859733). 7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks)9609030). 8.00 Havakazoo (R) (S) (8453797). 8.30 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (R) (S) (9803238).

8.00 Fam The Princess and the Goblin (Jozsef Gernes 1992 UK/Hun). Animated tale based on a story by George MacDonald. When a young princess is forced to marry an ugly goblin, she finds help in the untikely shape of an old woman and a miner's son. With the voices of Joss Ackland, Rik Mayali, Mollie Sugden, Claire Bloom and Peggy Mount (8198292). 10.30 Stickin' Around (9908882). 11.00 Eco

Warriors Special (S) (4299862). 11.30 Wishbone (R) (4290591). 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (5203274). 12.30 Family Affairs (5) (T) (1252220). 1.00 5 News Updata (S) (88594510).

105 Football Special Channel 5, like others betore them, has discovered that football is a great way into the ratings game, although its coverage, spear-headed by the tiringly excitable Jonathan Pearce, has some way to go yet. Anyhow, Pearce and Steve Scott present these "highlights" (actually they take nearly five hours; it wasn't that good) from Channel 5's soccer coverage from 1997. From the scene of this season's most extraordinary game - Tromso. where Chelsea played in a snowstorm - there are stories and action from the World Cup exploits at England (you might remember C5 had the England v Poland rights), Scotland, Ireland. and the European (mis)adventures of Arsenal, Newcastle, Chelsea and Aston Villa (63709152). 6.00 100 Per Cent. The gameshow without a host.

Three contestants, playing in isolation, face 100 general-knowledge questions. (S) (4415997). 6.30 Family Affairs. All hell breaks loose as Annie and Elsa face the terrible truth about Jack and Maria's affair, especially when they reallse that they are the last to know. Tim and Holly share a

passionate kiss (S) (T) (6830539). 7.10 Film Gona with the Wind (Victor Fleming 1939 US). See The Film, above (T) (65028201). Lexx - the Dark Zone Stories. Last of this amiably gory German-Canadian scl-li series. Kai will die without some proto-blood

(2603607).

1.00 The Happy Hooker (Nicholas Sgarro 1975 US). Totally sanitised screen version of New York brothel-keeper Xaviera Hollander's memoirs. Lyn Redgrave looks cut adrift amld a no-name cast in the lead role (5785992).

2.50 Film Smoke Signal (Jerry Hopper 1955 US). Frontier drama set in New Mexico Territory in 1852 (but filmed in the Grand Canyon - and handsomely, too), in which a small replacement cavalry detachment noe into their new post to ting it under attack by Ute Indians. Only nine of the original complement survive and, realising that the Indians will attack again, are forced to escape downriver on flatboats. Dana Andrew

leads the way (62737599).
4.20 The Plough and the Stars (John Ford 1937 US). Ford's disappointingly stagey adaptation of Sean O'Casey's play about the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. Presion Foster is the revolutionary and Barbara Stanwyck the wife who'd rether he didn't go and mix it up with the

Collins and Maconie's Movie

Colins and maconie s wovie
Club 157465669). 3.55 Sound
Bites (95675824). 4.10 Comedy
Central (5268927). 5.05 Coronation Street (3455027). 5.55
ITN Moming News (7884447).
Yorkshire/North East
As Carton except: 120

As Cariton except: 120 News (33435930) 8.50 News (221442). 3.35 The Gramo-phone Awards (778466). 5.55

TN Morning News (7884447).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 11.15
Ant and Dec's Geordie Christmas) 1658355) 12.00 Smudge
)83323). 12.30 Stol Meithnn.
Slici a Slac a Pingu (31355).
1.00 Channel 4 Racing from
Kempton Park and Leopardstown)63588249). 3.20 Film:
Ebbie (45071648). 5.00
5Pump: Noc Noc (5046). 5.30
5Pump: Gogs (394668). 5.40
Crefyddau'r Byd Wedi Eu
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Newyddion 6 (173591). 6.05

Newyddion 6 (173591), 6.05 Heno)581210), 7.00 Llcyris Ol-

sorts (3775). 8.00 Penblwydd

soris (37/3). 8.00 Periolwydd Hapus (4930). 8.30 Cefri Gwlad)58249). 9.30 Newyddion (834591). 9.45 Garej Nadolig (198201). 10.00 Brockside (76688). 11.30 Jo

Brand Burns Rubber (87355). 12.30 Film: Sale (56477737). 2.40 Film Love at First Bite

(714486), 4.25 Close

S4C

British Army (26607331). 5.30 Per Cent (S) (7744060). To 6.00am.

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RADIO

Padio 1
197.8-99.8MHz FM)
6.00 Best Mayo Radio Show. 12.00 Take
Three. 100 Roadshow Summer Tou. 2.00
Cive Warren. 6.00 Essential 97.9.00
Judge Jules 11.00 Weatwood 2.00 One In
the Jurge. 4.00 - 6.00 Charte Jordan
Radio 2
188-90.2MHz FM) Ractio 2
183-902M-br FM)
6.00 Alex Laster 7.30 Wake Up to Wogen.
9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Alex Freemen.
36 Christmas Lifestyles 3.06 Goon
180 3.30 Richard Almon. 6.00 John
Durn. 7.00 Hubert Grego. 7.30 Friday
Night is Music Night. 326 Dracula 9.30
Listen to the Band. 10.00 And is il Tine?
11.00 Bob Haris. 1.00 Charles Nove. 4.00
6.00 Liste Sherma.
Ractio 2 Radio 3 Hacted 3
90.2 92.4MHz PM)
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6.00 Morring Collection:
10.00 Musical Encounters
12.00 Componens of the Week British
Light Music.
1.00 The Flacto 3 Lunchame Concert.
2.00 The BBC Archive.
3.55 Nursey Notions,
4.00 Music Restored,
4.45 Turns of the Century. 4.405 Music Restored.
4.45 Turs of the Cartury.
5.00 fin Repertary (R)
6.00 Schubert Songbook. (R)
6.05 In Country Chruches.
7.00 Pertomence on 3.
8.45 Haytin and Bertok.
9.45 Postscript.
10.00 Heer and Now.
11.30 Composer of the Week: Prokofiev.
12.30 Kenton's Innovations (R)
1.00 - 6.55 Through the Night.

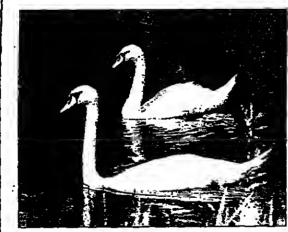
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8.45 The Nation's Faculitie Poems.
9.05 Desen learnd Decs.
9.45 Bon Appett, See Choice
10.30 Cold Turbay-With Den and Nack.
11.00 Fou Play.
11.30 The Pickerick Papers.
12.00 News: Rumpton Ross Agen
12.25 The Food Popparame.
12.55 Weeths:
1.00 The World at Che.
1.46 The Arches.
1.55 Shopping Forecest.
2.00 News. Classic Serial: Charlie and the Greet Glass Starter.
3.00 News: An Artist in Sound. (R)
3.30 An Artist in Sound. (R)
4.00 News.

3.30 An Artist in Sound. (R)
4.00 News.
4.05 Calling to Swens. See Choice
4.30 Batteries Not included.
4.45 Short Story. Remarkable Rocket.
5.00 PM.

8.15 Singular Women (R) 8.30 Richard Barton General Practitioner¹

5.00 PM.
5.00 Shoping Forecast
5.55 Weather 5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
\$5.00 Sir O'Clock Navis.
6.15 Shipping Women (Page 1997)



Calling to Swans (4.05pm R4) If you can get past the irritating folksy incidental music, Jim Crumley's account of his relationship with a pair of swans living on a highland loch is fascinating, it's a tale of trust built up over years, and disillusionment, when the male drove out his mate and replaced her with a younger swan. Earlier, there is Bon Appetit (9.45am R4) Kevin Connolly's four-part examination of the French attitude to food -why do they eat bits of animals that the British would never touch?

7.20 Pick of the Year 8.05 Natural Consequences 8.50 Second to None 9.15 Letter from America 9.30 The Pickwick Papers. 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight Special Debate 10.00 The World Tonight Special Debate 10.45 Book at Beatime: Playback 11.00 Week Ending, A Christmas panio 1128 Readunction
11.45 Readunction
11.45 Singular Women (R)
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Constmastime at the End of the Road
12.48 Singular Forecast
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News Edita. 11.30 Tales of the Turt 12.00 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00 - 6.00 Sportight 97 Classic FM (100 - 101 sMHz FM)
8.00 Alan Marm 6.00 Nor Bailey 12.00
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Hour 2.00 Beauty and the Beast 3.30
Margaret Howard, 6.00 Justs and Friends
8.00 Evening Concest 10.00 Michael
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(1215, 1197-1260AHz MIV 105 6AHz FM)
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2.00 -6.00 Howard Pates
2.00 -6.00 Howard Pates World Service 198Hz LW)
100 Newsdesk, 130 Foul Play 2,00
Newsday 2,30 People and Politics, 3,00
World News 3,05 World Business Report
3,30 Science in Action 4,00 Newsdesk,
4,55 Sports Roundup 4,30 Newtend The
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only, 5,00 Newsday 5,30 (1,400) (1981-Hz.) 10.00 News, An Act of Worship 10.15 -10.30 On This Day. Radio 5 Live jeto, 9084tz MV)
6.00 Bnel Lives 97, 7.00 The Breakfast
Programme, 9.00 Nicky Cambbell, 11.00
Sport on Five, 7.00 The Late So-O-Six,
9.00 Extra Time, 10.00 Paper Talk, 11.00

Old Cuncetly Shop (1984) (246602)

Sky Movies Gold

4.00 ET the Entra Terresma (1982)
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12.00 The Principal (1987) (6739485)
15.00 The Principal (1987) (6739485)
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6.10 Desert Bloom (1566) (*3583737) 8.00 Annie, a Royal Adventurel (1595) (5560)249) 8.40 Cultinosi Island (1595)

SATELLITE/CABLE

Sky Movies Screen 1

(9pm Sky Movies Screen !) (56697626) 11.40 White You Wer Is there nothing Emma Thompson can't do? After (\$0097626) 1430 Wine fou Wee Seeping (1995) (1789542) 125 Annie, a Royal Adventure' (1995) (2967510) 2.55 Apollo 13 (1995) (2969600) 9.15 While You Were Sleeping (1995) [14107713] 7.00 Cutthroat Island (1995) winning a Best Actress Oscar for Howards End, she went on to scoop the Best Adapted Screenplay gong for her beautifully-realised version of Jane Austen's tale of two publif 4.00 Sense and Sensibility (1995) See Choice (3/3/1080 ff. 11.20 The Move Show (5/84/27 11.50 Eike (1995) (5/79607) 1.35 The Forgotien One (1990) (6/73/26) 3.15 - 6.00 Castle Fresh (1994) (6/73/26) 1906071 9.00 Sense and Sensibility sisters' (Thompson and Kate Winslet) quest for love. Ang Lee, an unexpected but inspired choice, directs with delicacy in this satellite premiere. Feel 11994 (00782517)

Sky Movies Screen 2

600 The invisible Man Returns* (1940)
(401988)1. 725 An American Tai (1940)
(7946473). 8.50 A first in Central Part
(1940)189303(1) 1010 Balman Forever
(1956) (6786210) 1210 The War (1994)
(774902) 230 Fiee Willy 2 the Accenture Home (1956) 4707947, 3.50 Fisho
(1966) (47423) 7.20 Balman Forever
(1956) (47423) 7.20 Ut-Top Ten (5534)
6.00 Crimson Tide (1995) (47429)
(1500 Sudden Death (1995) (47429)
(1500 Sudden Death (1995) (47429)
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(1500 Fishon Tid

Sense and Sensibility

(36(6/60)) **1.00** Disaster (8166094) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (9573331) **2.00** Ülcseri

Cksett

Sky 1

500 Naming Glory (531171) 9.00 Hotel
100/6) 10.00 Another World (99794),
11.00 Days of Our Lives (79896) 12.00
The Open Wintey Show. Ellion John
170/61 100 Gerado (59046) 2.00 SalIn Jessy Raphael (77084) 3.00 Jenny
Jones (58777 4.00 Open Wintey
177607) 5.00 Star Tiek Voyager (2355),
6.00 Married with Children (2065) 6.30
Married with Children (3017) 7.00 The
Swingsons (3084) 7.30 Rea TV (2011),
8.00 Highlander (97969) 6.00 Waker,
Tevas Ranger (56743) 10.00 Wake

Long Play (3379943)

Sky Sports 1

7.00 Futbol Mundral (49713) 7.30 World Wiesting Federation Superstars (6868).

8.30 Knockouts of 97 (49249) 9.00

Racing News (23201) 9.30 Aerobics - (5754) 6571331 10.00 Golf Estra - How the Ryder Cup Was Won (972930) 1.00 Fnockouts of 97 (49084) 1.30 Rating (54573) 2.30 Fail: Power Week (80152) 2.30 Fnockouts of 97 (40071 4.00 Food Food Foodbast Special Aston Vita v Spurs (54074.20) 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (1355) 8.00 NBA Baskerball Boston Centre Charlotte Homets (99369). 10.00 13.551 8.00 NBA Baskehall Boston Centry v Charlotte Homots (19959). 10.00 Forti Football Spocial Asten Villa v Spurs (19107) 12.00 Silv Sports Centre (19450) 12.20 World Wresting Federa-Inon Raw (15756). 2.30 Ford Football Spenal Asten Villa v Spurs (6579). 4.30 Rybrid Sports (4707) 5.30 – 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (80195)

Sports Centre (80195)

Sky Sports 2

7,00 Aerotics (900600) 730 Body
Bulling (500113) 8,00 Racing News
1517-0009 8,30 Celebrity Perms
(8009000) 9,30 Trans World Sport
(517-023) 11,00 F1 Povertoal
(800900) 11,30 Footbal (3001978),
2,30 Typod Mundal (500094), 3,00 Expenses Sport (2716427) 3,30 for Skeling
(c. Ams (9005330) 5,30 World Sport

(63705721 6.00 Cnckst (2676404).
10.00 Nnockouts of 97 (5128404).
10.30 High 5 (5137152), 11.00 Trans
World Sport (9:38026). 12.00 Knockouts
of 97 (632602). 12.30 Football League
(2740701). 2.30 Sports Centre (5571485)
3.00 Martin Fishing (6185843). 5.00 6.00 Returng (6949188).
Sky Sports 3
12.00 Cnckst (3817682). 4.00 World of
Saling (28375423). 4.30 Powerbost and
Jel Ski World (28371607). 5.00 NHL.
Power Week (28134602). 6.00 Enterme
Sport (28352572). 6.30 High 5
(28376152). 7.00 Trans World Sport
(56376688). 6.00 Football League Reading v Wees Bornwich (5638152). 10.00
WWF (5538249). 12.00 Close.

Eutrosport Eurosport

Extrosport
7.30 Equesinarism (85084). 8.30 Dwng
(34317). 9.00 Cycing (84210). 11.00
Football World Cup Legends (33336).
12.00 Tourng Car. (75152). 1.00
Strength (51572). 2.00 Thoishot (32046).
4.00 Motosport Magazane (77249). 5.00
Mariisi Arts (2997). 6.00 Stock Car Racing (71336). 7.00 Football (37591). 6.00
Motosporting (53599). 8.00 Boxing
(32775). 10.00 Surno (35862). 11.00
Snooker (12775). 12.30 Close
LIK Carlet UK Gold

UK Gold
7.00 The Suffwars (#0.3607), 7.25
Neighbours (#615673), 8.00 Crossmods (2930897), 8.25 EastEnders (#537046), 8.00 The Bit (#517607), 9.35 Films (Free Expeciations* 11946) (271951.33), 71.35 Films (Free Expeciations* 11946) (271951.33), 71.35 Films (Free Expeciations* 11946) (#1628), 71.35 Films (Free Expeciations* (742997), 3.30 Wheelever Happened to the Lively Ladis* (#818171), 4.10 Pop Profile (#5642539), 4.35 Save the Children (#8335404) \$.20 The Two Romnes (#648891), 6.20 In Schness and in Health (#718779) 7.20 Dad s Army (#928249) 7.40 A Word with #1 (#228125) 8.20 Nearing Damp (#8334423) 8.20 Nearing Damp (#833423) 8.20 Nearing Damp (#834423) 8.20 Nearing Up Appearances (*7191715) 9.00 Only Fools and Horses (#83546591) 10.50 Blackscider II

VARIATIONS

Anglia As Carlton except: 1.20 Film: 10 (52050379), **3.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club 157465669). 3.55 Sound Bites (95675824). 4.10 Comedy Central (5266927). 5.05 Coro-nation Street (3455027). 5.55 ITN Morning News (7884447). Central

As Carlton except: 5.40 News; Weather (194648), 5.55 Morning News (7884447). **HTV Wales** As Carlton except: 1.20 News; Weather (33435930).

8.50 News (221442), 1.20 Film: 10 (52050379), 3.30 Film: 10 (320379): 3.30 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (57465669): 3.55 Sound Bites (95675824) 4.10 Comedy Central (5266927): 5.95 Coro-nation Street (3455027) 5.55 News (7884447).

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(\$284152). 11.30 The Bill (9417626)
12.05 Film: The Eagle Has Landed
11976) (70751553). 2.40 - 2.00 Shopping at Night (72646114).
Living
6.00 Thy Using (2058664). 9.00 Lesley's Christmas Countdown (5776846).
9.30 Coudon Ellion (6338997). 10.30 Jerry Springer (8825084). 11.00 Young and the Resiliass (7528220). 11.55 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (49649897). 12.25 Jimmy's (7908959). 1.00 Cheap Chic (6011510). 130 Ready Steady Code (6011510). 130 Ready Steady Code (6011510). 2.05 Hart to Hart (2346152).
3.00 Could it Be a Miracle? (95271423).
4.10 Jerry Springer (4915085). 5.00 Rolonda (4427539). 5.50 Cheap Chic (348362). 6.20 Ready. Steady. Code (1548046). 7.200 Ready. Steady. Code (7455722). 8.00 Jerry Springer (495317). 9.00 Films: Kate's Secret (1986) (4695317). 9.00 Films: Kate's Secret (1986) (4695399). 12.00 Close.

Live TV LIVE I V
6.00 Lwng Room Lenends 6.30 Agony
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10.30 Data-Boc 10.45 Love Story
11.00 Revelations 11.30 Fata and Forlines 12.00 Why Files? 12.30 Revelalions 10.0 Lie Datector 11.30 Agony 2.00
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Numbers in brackets are VideoPlus+@ Codes (T) = Teletext Subtities (S) = Stereo

TV Guide by Gerard Gilbert









Christmas crackers or Boxing Day stuffings, football leaves the heaving table today for the start of the festive programme that usually dictates whether teams truly have a happy new year. Guy Hodgson looks at the top matches.

If anything hlighted Alex Fcrguson's Christmas Day it was the presumption that the title is aiready destined for Old Trafford. "If the players start thinking it's won," the Manchester United manager said. "we'll have problems.

The statistics would appear to corroborate Ferguson's caution. Over the last 25 years only 11 teams leading the top division on Christmas Day have won the championship and one club has twice been four points clear and fallen back. United were the flattering front-runners in 1971-2 and 1985-6 and what is their lead today? Four points,

On that latter occasion the red Boxing Day swagger was wiped away by Everton, who also happen to be today's opponents. But while comparisons could just about he drawn with the United of today and 12 years ago, no-one with an ounce of compassion would hold up Goodison past and present for scrutiny.

The team that beat United 3-1 that day were the reigning champions and included Gary Lineker, Trevor Steven and Kevin Sheedy to name but three of a marvellous side and you do not have to be an Everton supporter to sigh nostalgically when you see the current players. The manager, Howard Kendall, probably does every time he takes out his pencil and

starts writing out the line-up. Other numbers hardly come to Everton's rescue today. They have won only one of their last six matches at United and mar aged to squander a two-goal lead on their last visit. They are second bottom and the only way they are scoring is through

Gary Speed penalties. United, meanwhile, have won their last five Premiership matches and even the Newcastle United-supporting Prime Minister, Tony Blair, took off his black and white striped glasses at the weekend to describe them as "one of the great sides of the century". Not that a politician would ever

resort to exaggeration. It is Ryan Giggs who is making grand claims seem plausible at the moment. Injury has hamstrung his progress for three seasons, but fully-fit again he looks

capable of achieving what was promised in his salad days. What you are seeing now is the fulfilment of that potential." Ferguson said. "On Sunday at Newcastle, Ryan was the most pitch, a man of real class. His penetration catches teams."

It certainly did against Newcastle and Aston Villa and suddenly a period from 30 November that was full of potential pitfalls (Blackburn home, Liverpool and Newcastle away) has seen United forge ahead. "We've got to keep winning," Ferguson said. "If you can

INSIDE



T've always been against blavers drinking, and I'm always thinking of ways of getting a team that doesn't drink Eventually that

> Alex **Ferguson** has a seasonal

will happen'

message for Glenn Moore Page 22

come out of December in front then you're in a good position." No one would describe Tottenham's position (18th) as good and you suspect the Yuletide euphoria in N17 at Jürgen Klinsmann's return had its edge knocked off by the news that the German captain will he in Italy celebrating Christmas with his family rather than turning our

today against Aston Villa. His registration is through, as far as we know he is healthy and he will be no more match-fit today than he will against Arsenal on Sunday, his signalled return. You did not have to receive a dose of cynicism in your stock-

You can guarantee there will be no such reluctance from Brad Friedel. The 26-year-old American goalkeeper has had his altempts to play in the Premiership stymied so often you suspect he accomplished player on the would turn out on his wedding day just to sit on the substitutes bench. His chance for something better might come for Liverpool against Leeds at Anfield.

This time last year Liverpool led Manchester United by five points and it is difficult to find anyone on Merseyside who does not dump a large proportion of the hlame for last spring's slump at David James' door. Even a steady season to date has not restored the faith and it is safe to say there will not be riots in the streets of Anfield if Friedel replaces "Calamity" today.

"I want to prove wrong people back home who don't believe it's possible for an American to make a living from soccer in Europe," Friedel said. Frankly after persuading the authorities, who turned down applications from Newcastle, Sunderland and Southampton for his work permit, his compatriots would appear to be the easy hit.

Kasey Keller is a Yank who has already courted success in the country of King Arthur hut it will take a lot of New World optimism to imagine Leicester prevailing at Arsenal today. They have not won at Highbury since September 1973 and as their current run is only two wins in their last 10 League matches the portents are not promising.

"People talk about us as having established ourselves in the Premiership," the Leicester manager, Martin O'Neill, said. "It's a big compliment, but also dangerous. As soon as we start thinking we've made it we'll find ourselves getting the higgest shock of our lives."

As Barusley have done, although the trip to Bolton today harks back to last season's successful First Division campaign and a 2-2 draw at Burnden Park. The other promoted team, Crystal Palace, will hope for their first home win of the sea-. son against Southampton while Chelsea have the memory of last season's 4-2 defeat by Wimbledon to prick any complacency at Stamford Bridge.

The most intriguing match of the day might come at Hillsborough, however, where home supporters will he able to see whether Ron Atkinson's return heralded a genuine improvment or a 19-day wonder. Sheffield Wednesday meet second-placed Blackburn with a previous meeting also to the forefront, the 7-2 thrashing at



England's Clare Cornor practises in Madras on Christmas Eve

Photograph: Allsport

Shochridges and Quilters are

the same because none of us

wanted to do the Whitbread

with a hrand new haby, nor

did we want to stay at home

pregnant. It has worked out

well, the children get on well

rugether, and a four-year gap

a normal, nine to five, do-

mestic easy of life? No. I have great admiration for all

the guys, and that includes the

shore crew, because I see just

how hard they work. They go

to great lengths to perfect

everything they are doing and

I have a lot of respect for that

effort. But I cannot think of

anything I would hate to do

more than a leg of the Whit-

bread Race in a W60, even

when Grant is going to get

what she thinks would be a

proper job, but this is his

job, this is what he does for

a living. I absolutely love the

lifestyle. I really enjoy the

closeness of the racing, and I

love that he is doing some-

thing he is passionate about.

meeting people from all over

social person, but the envi-

nonment of this community as

it travels together is fantastic.

Trying to watch the fleet come

into Auckland and not be

part of it would be sheer tor-

ture. Which reminds me, 1

I am not really a strongly

the world.

My mother still wonders

though I love the race.

And would I swap this for

seems quite good.

Christmas put on hold by England's cricketing women

After three weeks of being hauled around India when half asleep, the England women's cricket team take on New Zealand today for a place in the World Cup final. Far from being jaded or homesick the side are relishing their big Boxing Day. Pete Davies reports from Madras

The England women's cricket team has played eight matches in the past 20 days, and spent 10 of the other 12 days travelling. There has been one sevenhour train journey, four six-hour hus rides - three of them through the night - and on Tuesday an alarm call at 3.30am (their fifth pre-dawn start) got them up for a 6.30am flight from Delhi to Madras that was then delayed until midday.

Karen Smithies, the captain, said: "I hope people know what we've been through. We've kept going because we've had to, but I think when we get home we'll all completely collapse."

The past two days of rest and practice hefore today's semi final with New Zealand, have therefore been an unfamiliar luxury, tempered only by thoughts of family at home. Clare Connor, the left-arm offspinner, summed it up when saying: "In our house Christmas is always the same. At any time of day you know exactly what they'll be doing. It's hard not to think about it."

Twenty-one years old, Connor is a student of English at Manchester University. She has toured in India and Zimbabwe hefore, and been twice to Romania to work in orphanages, hut she confessed to being more homesick this time than she expected. News of her little brother decorating the tree touched a nerve - but, on the other hand, she said simply: "Everything else fades into insignificance when cricket's around."

England are sternly focused on today's game. They know it will be different to anything that has gone before; the prize is a place in the final against Australia at Eden Gardens in Calcuita on Monday and Smithies

If anybody isn't, what are the doing here?

New Zealand, beaten England in the final at Lore four years ago, are a quality side In Debbie Hockley, they have the highest run-scorer in the world. Hockley's 4,521 runs international competition is clude two centuries here, and she strikes the ball with such power that in England months ago, she broke three English fingers.

On that tour, New Zealand won a one-day series 3-0, but have lost players since then, while England are very much better prepared, and can bat right through the order. Confident that players like Charlotte Edwards and Jan Brittin canscore runs all day, England believe that if Hockley is contained, the game is theirs.

Conditions are promising. After the dense and chilly fogs of Delhi and Chandighar, Madras offers welcome sunshine, with nodding palm trees and warmth in the high 20s. The MA Chidambaram Stadium is an imposing arena with a flat. rock-hard batters' track and an immaculate outfield. England have trained there twice, clouling the hall so hard in the nets that four have been lost over the wall amid the barefoot boys who crowd to watch their every

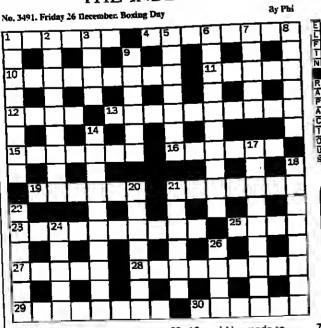
In short, with all the players fil and well. England have come through their debilitating itinerary in remarkably good shape. Today's game is a massive challenge, and promises to be enthralling, but whatever the outcome no one should doubt that the side have given their all.

It has been especially hard for the wicketkeeper, Jan Cassar, who has missed not only Christmas, hut also a hirthday at home on Christmas Eve. She spoke for the squad, however, when she said: "Cricket is more important than Christmas right now. Christmas can wait, because we all want this so hadly. If we lose we'll be distraught. We've won the World Cup before, and there's nothing that compares to it. I've never felt anything like it, and I want lo feel that feeling again."

Spare a thought, then, for these women of England doing battle far from home on Boxing

said: "We'll be up for it hig time. Day. Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London

Ewood Park in August. ing to wonder at his commitment. THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS This girl's writing the answers where? (6) Sophisticated brand adopt-

ed by upper-class favourite Description of locality where sickly pale man hangs around church (91

11 East European carrying round 10 (5) 12 10's vegetable (4) 13 Munch's heart is in "The

Scream", recreated for 10 15 English stage worker look-

ing smart (7) 16 A composer, God willing. or a cataloguer of Mozart. in short (6)

19 A party recalled lust, perhaps, for a heautiful boy (6) 21 One who decides the role of the colonist? (7)

23 10 could be made to match Helen (10) 25 Donkey will cat one in

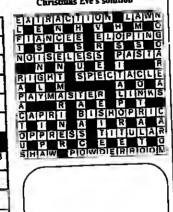
10 (9) 29 Well-adjusted agency worker made a mistake we hear (81 30 Woodworker noticed

you being vulgar (6) DOWN Under compulsion. drunkenly plied me with a drop of lager (8) Sad mail from 10 (9) 10 - one extremely reduced (4)

the state found (2.2) 27 A stand backed by fabulous story-teller (5)

28 Creature to be ardent in

Punctured support to give way, almost (7) Substantial Scottish river in 10 (10)



Punishment heartless Karenin rejected (5) The wild party - not good as concept (6)

Vehicle entening Derby, say (or another 10) [6) Storehouse with necessary food in 10 (10) 17 Surely bay is polluted in 10

(9) 18 Captive King is one incarcer ated by Prince (8) Spy once collapsed in a fainting fit (7)

talk found within confines of 22 Eighth officer commanding volunteer force's not losing heart (6) 24 Be unhappy about sun rising

21 Parsimonious hypocritical

Field about to be surrounded by motoring organisation (4)

A long-suffering lifestyle for the wife on the ocean waves

Yesterday's festivities provided some rare moments of respite for the crews, and family, of sailing's Whitbread Round the World Race. But as Nicki Dalton, the wife of Merit Cup skipper Grant, says the work is never really done for the travelling community who live for the competition.

The Christmas present we most wanted, a win for Merit Cup on the third leg from Fremantle, did not arrive. but perhaps it is just delayed and will be waiting for us when we, and Grant, get home to Auckland early in the New Year. Last time his arrival in New Zealand Endeavour was one of the most fantastic moments I can remember in yacht racing.

At least on Christmas Day we are able to forget the race for an hour or two. Grant's sister, her husband and family live in Sydney so we could not only spend the day with them and their children, but take time to open the presents in the morning then have the whole crew round for an Australian Christmas barbecue in the afternoon. Our two had already sent notes to Santa telling him not to send the presents down the chimney at home because they would be

But normally we are concentrating the whole time on the race. It starts with putting the project ingether and find-

we were married, the third we ing the finance. In some ways that is even more nerve- had one child. Eloise, and wracking than the race itself. now, with Mack, we have two. Of course their arrival Once the project is under was planned to lit in with Whithread schedules. The

way it seems to be a 24-hour job, especially as we are working with people in different countries around the world. and then when it is on, although it is the time you have been looking forward to. there are the fortures known as the six-hourly skeds. These are position reports sent aut by the race organisation in England.

We, that is myself and the other wives and shore crew. get really involved in it and these reports can make a huge difference to your day. You can have a good report showing position gained or maintained and you are having a good day. But six hours later it might be a bod one and then everything turns had and your stomach churns until there is a hetter one.

It is hard to take your mind off it, though having to book after the children helps. But I never worry that he is away or that he is in danger. I would be more worried if he were driving a car the same distance than I would about

Before the finish in Sydney I thought that, on a scale of one to 10, our Christmas I really enjoy the travel and would score 12 if there was a win, eight it we were second or third, and anything below that would be five downwards. This is Grant's fifth Whithread, my fourth, so we all know the way things work by now and children are remarkably adaptable.

My first race we were just going out together, the second have a house to get ready.

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ne of hunger, poverty and disease. But by the time she has children of her own, this could be a very different story. It could be a story about families, about villagers working togethe

earn their own living. About children who can read and write and have a future. About a community that can treat the sick and is free from fatal diseases. And if the future is to be like this, it is because you care enough to sponsor a child.

In return, we'll keep you in touch with regular reports from our field workers plus a photograph and messages from the child you sponsor. Please sponsor a child today. With your help, we really can

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